English 2293
American Literature II
University of Texas-San Antonio 1604    MH 2.02.16
Karen Dodwell, Ph.D.    karen.dodwell@utsa.edu
Office:    MB 2.476    210 458 5364
Office hours:  8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Course Description in UTSA Catalogue
3-0  3 hours credit.  Prerequisite:  Completion of Core Curriculum requirement in literature.  Study of representative works in American literature from 1865 to the present.  Required of students majoring in English.

Course Objectives
♦  Develop an informed and flexible outlook by reading a sampling of poetry, prose, and drama in American Literature after 1865
♦  Understand the perspectives and accomplishments of the past by viewing American literature as part of a continuum of literary development
♦  Become intellectually adaptable by exploring the intersections of gender, ethnicity, race, religion, and politics in American literature
♦  Learn to read literary texts closely, analyze them, and synthesize ideas about them
♦  Develop a scholarly vocabulary and voice for classroom discussions and informal and formal papers
♦  Skillfully write scholarly arguments about literary texts
♦  Learn to use MLA style in formatting papers and documenting information from secondary sources
♦  Find critical texts in the library and in databases
♦  Develop the ability to read critical texts and integrate scholarly debate into one’s own scholarly writing

Texts

Also see Blackboard for study guides and handouts.

Course Policies
♦  Attendance is important. Roll will be taken in every class. Missing a class results in a 5-point deduction from class participation points. (See below.)
♦  Dropping the course by the specified UTSA deadline is the responsibility of the student.
  Students who do not drop before published drop dates will receive a grade in the course, even if they have quit attending. Students should check for drop dates at myutsa/ASAP/Class Schedules/Academic Calendar for the semester
♦  Support services, including registration assistance and equipment, are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), MS 2.03.18.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in an —FI for the course. Plagiarism consists of cheating on an exam, copying another student’s work, copying a paper off the internet; not documenting the ideas and opinions of other writers—even when not quoting them directly. To access the UTSA scholastic dishonesty policy, go to the following site and scroll down to Section 203: http://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.html

Grades
Letter grades will be assigned as follows:
A =  90 - 100                     B =  80 - 89
C =  70 - 79                       D =  60 - 69
F = Below 60 points

Course Requirements
Class attendance & participation  10%
Active reading, writing, response journal  10%
Midterm Exam     20%
Final Exam      25%
Focused feedback writing #1      5%
Focused feedback writing #2      5%
Term Paper      25%

Class attendance & participation is an important part of the learning process in the course. Class time is designed to help students become critical thinkers, active listeners and lively discussants. Students should come to class prepared and actively listen to lectures, presentations, class discussions, and panel discussions. Students will be called on to make a comment or ask a question.

Students begin the semester with 100 points for class participation and attendance. Each absence, regardless of reason, results insults in a loss of 5 points. Students can make up the lost points by doing the following:

Participate in a panel discussion   5
Write a review of a UTSA humanities event  5
Give a mini-lecture based on student research  5
Write a review of an approved movie   5

Students may do two of each of the above. Panels, lectures, and presentations must be scheduled in advance.

Details for each type of contribution are listed in Blackboard —Assignments. The maximum points averaged into the final grade for class attendance and participation is 100.

The active reading, listening, and response journal is the student’s record of preparation for class and interaction in the class. See Blackboard Assignments for more detail.
The midterm exam is designed to assess the student’s comprehension and retention of information presented in the course. The test will be taken in class and may contain brief identification, multiple choice, short essays and long essays.

The final exam will be given during the time scheduled by UTSA. It will be similar to the mid-term in content. The final will be comprehensive but will focus on course readings after the midterm.

Focused feedback writing assignments provide an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to succeed in writing the term paper. See Blackboard for details.

The term paper is a formal argumentative paper that presents a clear thesis and support. Four relevant scholarly secondary sources are required, and information from sources must be documented using MLA style in-text citations and a works cited page. Page length = 7 pages. More extensive guidelines for the term paper are available under “Assignments” in Blackboard.

Late work is excused from point penalties if a student verifies in writing an incapacitating physical illness or death in the family. Students who will be absent for religious reasons or to conduct official University business should make arrangements with the instructor before the absence in order to avoid late point penalties.

Unexcused late work penalties
Less than 24 hours late = 5 point deduction
24 – 48 hrs late = 10 point deduction
over 48 hours late = 15 point deduction
See cut-off dates for assignments on Blackboard

Reading Schedule

Two famous poets – Whitman and Dickinson
July 8 F - Introduction to the course and to Walt Whitman
July 11 M - Walt Whitman – p. 17-21; Song of Myself: read sections 1-30; skim 31-42; read 43-52.
July 12 T- Emily Dickinson, p. 77-81, all poems, pp. 81-93.

Two Americans abroad - James and Wharton
July 13 W - Henry James – Daisy Miller, pp 316-336

Two African American voices – Washington and Du Bois
July 15 F - Booker T. Washington, From Up From Slavery, pp 452 – 462 Focused Feedback Writing #1 due in Blackboard or printed out in class
July 18 M - W. E. B. Du Bois – From The Souls of Black Folk, pp 551-568

Modernism
July 19 T - Introduction to Modernism; read pp 705-718
July 22 F - Ernest Hemingway – “The Snows of Kilimanjaro,” pp 1065 - 1083

July 25 M – Midterm Exam – entire class period

Post WW II States of Mind
July 26 T - American Lit since 1945, pp. 1129 – 1142;
Focused Feedback Writing #2 due in Blackboard or printed out in class.
July 28 Th - Death of a Salesman, Act 1
July 29 F - Death of a Salseman, Act 2

Postmodernism
Aug 1 M - Introduction to Postmodernism
A. R. Ammons “Corson’s Inlet,” pp 1407-1412

Women Writers and Feminist Issues
Aug 3 W - Sylvia Plath pp 1475-1483; Anne Sexton pp 1438-1443; Adrienne Rich pp 1443-1445, “Diving into the Wreck” and “Transcendental Etude”
Aug 4 Th - Gwendolyn Brooks pp 1361-1365; Rita Dove, pp 1633 – 1643.

Ethnic Literature
Aug 5 F - Amiri Baraka & Yusef Komunyakaa covered in class Term paper due printed out in class.
Aug 8 M - Sandra Cisneros – Woman Hollering Creek,” pp 1643-1651
Aug 9 T - Gloria Anzaldua – “How to Tame a Wild Tongue,” pp 1586-1596 Journal due on Blackboard or printed out in class.

Aug 13 Saturday FINAL EXAM – 7:30 – 10:00 a.m. same room