INSTRUCTOR: DR. RALPH MILLIS

OFFICE: MB 2.248M
OFFICE HOURS: TR 12:15-1:45
E-MAIL: Ralph.millis@utsa.edu
TELEPHONE: OFFICE: TBA

HOME: 698-5113, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., M-F
Use the answer machine, please.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: “The American Novel” provides an opportunity for students to examine a variety of major American novelists and the literary movements within which they wrote.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Examine the American literary tradition and recognize and understand its various strains—realism, naturalism, psychological realism, etc.—as reflected in the works of a range of important American novelists.
2. Place American fiction in its cultural and historical contexts.
3. Understand and interpret American novels as both works of art and as reflections of the authors’ lives/experiences.
4. Confront a major aesthetic question: What is the function(s) of the American novel, and, by extension, what is the function of written art?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
   A mid-term examination—200 pts.
   A final examination—250 pts.
   An 8-10 page research/critical essay—350 pts.
   Attendance/quizzes/participation in class discussion—200 pts

ATTENDANCE: If you have more than three unexcused absences, I will have the option of lowering your final grade 5% for each, including the first three. I WILL TAKE ATTENDANCE at each class. If you miss more than five (5) classes for ANY reason you should consider withdrawing from the class. If you must miss class for school activities such as athletics, band, etc., you must bring to me a list, signed by the appropriate faculty or athletic department member, of the dates this absence(s) will occur. Medical emergencies, validated by a doctor’s note are excusable. Regular scheduled doctor or dentist appointments made in advance are not. You are responsible for getting the notes from your colleagues for any class you miss. If you miss or are late to (unexcused) any test or final examination you will be able to take a later replacement essay test or examination ONLY at my discretion and at a time
and place of my choosing; at my option you can be penalized up to 10% of the total possible points on the assignment. You can take a makeup test or final examination in lieu of the one you missed due to an excused absence with no penalty—just be aware a makeup tends to be more difficult than the one you missed. Quizzes missed for any reason cannot be made up. If you took a quiz or test but cannot find your grade for that exercise on Blackboard after I have announced that the grades have been posted, let me know immediately.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: If you miss class you obviously cannot contribute to class discussion, so this will be reflected in your grade. If you attend class regularly but never participate, you will receive a “C” for that section of your attendance/participation grade.

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Don’t even THINK about committing this. You can receive an “F” for the course if you cheat on or plagiarize an assignment. In addition, other bad things can happen. There is NO excuse for submitting work that is not yours. Here is the UTSA Handbook of Operating Procedures definition of:

2.37 Scholastic Dishonesty
Part I, Chapter VI, section 3.22 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System provides the following: Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Please familiarize yourself with the materials on scholastic dishonesty in the UTSA Student Code of Conduct.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The University provides support services, including registration assistance and equipment, to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), MS 2.03.18

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION POLICY: It is the policy of this institution that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any individual in employment or in its programs or activities at the University of Texas at San Antonio because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, disability or status as a veteran. The University prohibits sexual harassment of any form in all aspects of employment and in its programs and activities and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual and racial or ethnic orientation in employment.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Teaching this class is my job, my profession. Your job is to be a student, a good one, so don’t disrespect yourself by failing to work hard. Here, then, is a partial recipe for failure:

A. Don’t read the assignments, or don’t have them read by the assigned date.
   Don’t study for tests and the final.
B. Flaunt an “I Don’t Give a Darn” attitude. Just sit there with a “Thousand Yard Stare” if I call upon you in class.
C. Talk loudly or carry on peripheral discussions with your neighbor once class has begun.
D. **Class begins at precisely at the posted time. IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER CLASS HAS BEGUN, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE CLASSROOM. You are absent and will be counted, and penalized, as such.**

Class periods are short and intensive, and any interruptions rob me and your classmates of our time. Don’t even consider entering the classroom and distracting us. Remember, attending class is your job. What happens to you when you are late for your non-university, “real world,” job? Does the boss give you a pass?

**CONDUCT AND OTHER STUFF:**

**DO:**
- Keep up with the reading. Quizzes will be unannounced.
  - Contribute in class,
  - Interrupt me with questions, observations, etc. at any time.
- Realize it is perfectly fine to disagree with me. In fact, I encourage thoughtful disagreement
- Let me know if you must leave a particular class early.
- Come and see me during office hours. Most of the time I feel like the Maytag Repairman: “the loneliest guy in town.”

**DON’T:**
- Be late and attempt to enter the classroom.
- Leave and return to class intermittently.
- Leave cell phones on.
- Use laptops while class is in session.
- Suddenly disappear without telling me, only to show up two or more weeks later.
- Insult or put down your colleagues, including me.
- Ask for special treatment not available to your colleagues.
- Inform me that you will be ten minutes late for every class because the professor in your class just before mine always runs over his/her allotted time.
- Start stuffing your backpack ten minutes before class ends.

If we all cooperate and follow the rules, we can have an enjoyable, valuable experience in immersing ourselves in American literature.

**THE UNIVERSITY CATALOG:** All regulations regarding academic conduct, responsibilities, and rights, as they appear in the current university catalogue, apply in this course.

**GRADING SCALE:**
A+ = 97% 970/1000 pts 4.00 GPA
A  = 93% 930/1000 pts 4.00 GPA
A- = 90% 900/1000 pts 3.67 GPA
B+ = 87% 870/1000 pts 3.33 GPA
B  = 83% 830/1000 pts 3.00 GPA
B- = 80% 800/1000 pts 2.67 GPA
C+ = 77% 770/1000 pts 2.33 GPA
C  = 73% 730/1000 pts 2.00 GPA
C- = 70% 700/1000 pts 1.67 GPA
D+ = 67% 670/1000 pts 1.33 GPA
D  = 63% 630/1000 pts 1.00 GPA
D- = 60% 600/1000 pts .67 GPA
F  = <60% <600 pts. .00 GPA

Note that “C” means “Average” university work. It means you have performed acceptably; you have met the minimum standard. It does not mean you have failed or that you are a failure as a human being. I understand that many of you must maintain a certain minimum GPA to retain scholarships or other financial aid. To achieve this you should plan on working hard, rather than trying to slow roll me into giving you a grade higher than the one you earned.

REQUIRED TEXTS FOR THE COURSE:

*The Red Badge of Courage* - Stephen Crane
*The Rise of Silas Lapham* - William Dean Howells
*Sister Carrie* - Theodore Dreiser
*Winesburg, Ohio* - Sherwood Anderson
*Young Lonigan –Volume One of the Studs Lonigan Trilogy* - James T. Farrell
*The Sun Also Rises* - Ernest Hemingway
*Miss Lonelyhearts* – Nathanael West
*Go Down, Moses* - William Faulkner
*Invisible Man* - Ralph Ellison
*Catch-22* - Joseph Heller
Any edition of the novels is fine.

ASSIGNMENTS: Students should come to class having already read the assignment for that day. The instructor can add, delete, or otherwise change any item(s) on the syllabus as necessary.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 30</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT 4</td>
<td>What is American? What is a novel?</td>
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<td><em>Red Badge of Courage</em></td>
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**FINAL EXAMINATION** TUESDAY, DEC 18, 10:30-1:00

I encourage you to utilize the academic support services available to you through the Tomás Rivera Center (TRC) to assist you with building study skills and tutoring in course content. These services are available at no additional cost to you. The TRC has several locations at the Main Campus and is also located at the Downtown Campus. For more information, visit the web site at [www.utsa.edu/trcss](http://www.utsa.edu/trcss) or call (210) 458-4694 on the Main Campus and (210) 458-2838 on the Downtown Campus.

THE ROADRUNNER CREED: [www.utsa.edu/about/creed](http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed)
THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION AT MY DISCRETION AND AS CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE.