

ENGLISH 311: AMERICAN LITERATURE SURVEY II  
Spring Semester, 2006  
Prof. Warren J. Doody  
MW 1:00 - 2:15  
Scott 122: Exam Group 8

Office Hrs.: 10:00 - 1:00 MW; 10:00 - 12:00 & 1:30 - 3:00  
TTH or by appointment

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TEXTS: Lauter, Paul. The Heath Anthology of American Literature: Volumes C, D, and E. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Faulkner, William. Light in August. New York: Vintage International, 1991.

Smith, Anna Deveare. Twilight: Los Angeles. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to introduce students to the world of American literature, specifically from the late nineteenth century to the present. To accomplish this objective, we will take a close look at the various genres that make up the literary world - short fiction, poetry, drama, and the novel - as a strategy intended to cover all bases. By semester's end, this course will succeed in building an American literary foundation replete with the skills necessary to approach future works in this area with a greater degree of breadth and understanding.

COURSE PROCEDURE: The primary focus of this course involves the reading and discussion of literature. Each story/poem(s)/play/novel portion should be read prior to the class period in which it is to be discussed. The reading in this course is not excessive, but it is consistent. Generally speaking, there will be some required reading each time we meet, and you are responsible for staying on par irrespective of whether or not you were in class on the day the reading was assigned.

I expect each student to come to class prepared to involve themselves in the discussion. As there is seldom a definitive interpretation of any given literary work, everyone should feel free to offer an evaluation, a subjective response, and a defense of one's position. To stimulate participation, I will retain the right to arbitrarily call on students for their response, and to ensure the reading of the said material, I will reserve the right to offer up snap quizzes as a method of keeping us all on track, and these will be factored into the final grade.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **EXAMS:** There will be three exams, spaced out evenly over the course of the semester. The final exam is one of the three listed here; however, it will not be cumulative; it will only deal with the material from the second exam on.
2. **POETRY PRESENTATION AND PAPER:** Each student will be responsible for a poetry presentation and paper, i.e., each student will be given one American poet and will present that poet's life, work, and literary contributions to the rest of the class. The poetry paper will be based on this presentation and, in fact, the presentation/paper will be counted as one grade.
3. **FINAL PAPER:** Each student will be required to write a "term paper" on an American writer and his/her work of their choosing. The paper will be six to eight pages in length.
4. **ATTENDANCE:** The Absence Policy will be that of VU: there are no excused/unexcused absences. Students may miss up to 20% of the class meetings for any reason. After missing 20% of the class, (six absences for a course meeting twice a week), students are dropped from the course, receiving no credit.
5. **PUNCTUALITY:** Two days of tardiness equals one day of absence. Please make every effort to be here on time.

6. PARTICIPATION: This is an intangible that I use at the end of the semester when a student is on the cusp between two grades. I realize that some students are more naturally extraverted than others and will tend to dominate verbally in a group environment. However, let it be said that there are many ways to participate in classroom experience, not the least of which is to simply pay attention. As an adjunct to this, please note that failure to prepare adequately for class, i.e., not doing the assigned reading, or general disruption of class, i.e., note-passing, sleeping, talking to neighbors, etc., will result in an automatic, non-negotiable loss of five points.

GRADING: Your grade in this course will be determined by the following criteria:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
"Final Exam"	20%
Poetry Presentation/Paper	20%
Final Paper	20%

LATE WORK: If you know ahead of time that you are going to miss class, either turn in your work early or give it to a fellow classmate to give to me. Except for cases of extreme emergency, I will not accept late work.

PLAGIARISM: Do not attempt to pass off someone else's work as your own. This is a serious, punishable offense. It will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

CALENDAR: This is a tentative construction and, as such, is open to change. General dates have been set down, but a measure of flexibility must be retained in order to spend as much time as seems necessary on each individual literary work. The response of the students to a given work will dictate the amount of concentration given.

M Jan. 9 - Introduction to course

W Jan. 11 - Late Nineteenth Century: 1865-1910  
Gilman: "The Yellow Wallpaper"

M Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - no class

- W Jan. 18 - Henry James: "Daisy Miller: A Study"
- M Jan. 23 - Kate Chopin: "The Awakening"
- W Jan. 25 - Finish "The Awakening."  
William Dean Howells: "Editha"
- M Jan. 30 - Stephen Crane: "The Open Boat"  
"The Bride Comes to Yellow  
Sky"
- W Feb. 1 - Modern Period: 1910-1945  
Langston Hughes: "Big Meeting"  
Selected poetry
- M Feb. 6 - Emily Dickinson  
Edwin Arlington Robinson  
Jean Toomer
- W Feb. 8 - Ezra Pound  
T.S. Eliot
- M Feb. 13 - Exam #1
- W Feb. 15 - Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Amy Lowell  
Hilda Doolittle (H.D.)
- M Feb. 20 - President's Day - no class
- W Feb. 22 - Eugene O'Neill: "The Hairy Ape"
- M Feb. 27 - William Carlos Williams  
e.e.cummings
- W March 1 - Edith Wharton: "Roman Fever"  
Katharine Anne Porter: "Flowering Judas"
- M March 6 - F. Scott Fitzgerald: "A Diamond as Big as  
the Ritz"  
Ernest Hemingway: "Hills Like White  
Elephants"
- W March 8 - Thomas Whitecloud: "Blue Winds Dancing"  
Anzia Yezierska: "America and I"

March 13 - 17 - Spring Break!

- M March 20 - William Faulkner: "Light in August"
- W March 22 - Finish "Light in August"
- M March 27 - Exam #2
- W March 29 - Contemporary Period: 1945-Present  
Arthur Miller: "The Crucible"
- M April 3 - Continue w/"The Crucible"
- W April 5 - Finish "The Crucible"
- M April 10 - Gwendolyn Brooks  
Allen Ginsberg
- W April 12 - Sylvia Plath  
Anne Sexton
- M April 17 - Saul Bellow: "Looking for Mr. Green"  
Raymond Carver: "A Small, Good Thing"
- W April 19 - Flannery O'Connor: "A Good Man is Hard to Find"  
Joyce Carol Oates: "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been"
- M April 24 - Anna Deveare Smith: "Twilight: Los Angeles"
- W April 26 - Finish "Twilight: Los Angeles"

Final Exam: Mon. May 1 @ 1:00 - 3:00  
Final Paper due!