

Survey of American Literature

AML 2070-4081

MTWRF 3 (11:00 - 12:15pm)

Matherly 0117

Instructor:

Ashley Manchester

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Office: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

In this course, we will examine a wide array of American literature through a discussion of form, interrogating how the stylistic aspects of the texts influence the meanings created within. In doing so, we will look at poetry, novels, essays, short stories, memoirs, graphic literature, and speeches from Native America to the contemporary landscape. Additionally, we will situate each piece within its historical moment, calling attention to both the literary Zeitgeist of the time and the sociopolitical context in which each piece was created. Paying special attention to literature and constructions of marginalized groups in America, we will scrutinize the various ways that notions of “Americanness” are shaped and circulated, as well as how the nation’s cultural concerns and forms of literature have changed over time. Survey courses are, by their very nature, cursory and limiting. Therefore, we will pay particular attention to how and which forms, authors, and texts have become canonical and at what cost.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Communicate a foundational basis of American literature
- Analyze and interpret both the form and content of various texts
- Situate texts within their American and global historical contexts
- Compose rhetorical arguments using primary texts and supplemental scholarship
- Utilize a thorough writing process that includes planning, drafting, and revising
- Evaluate the rhetorical arguments of the work of peers and other authors

Required Texts (in alphabetical order):

Butler, Octavia. *Dawn*. New York: Aspect, 1997. ISBN: 0446603775

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. New York: CreateSpace, 2014. ISBN: 1503293181

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus, vol. 1: My Father Bleeds History*. New York: Pantheon, 1986. ISBN: 0394747232

All readings marked with a (C) are posted on Canvas under Files

Course Requirements:

| Assignment | Points/Percent of Grade | Requirements | Due Date(s) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Partner Presentation and Paper | Presentation: 35 pts. Paper: 35 pts. 70 pts./23% | 25-30 minute presentation/ 750 word paper | Interspersed |
| 6 Response Papers | 5 pts. each 30 pts./10% | 300 words each | Interspersed |
| Historical Situation Paper | First draft: 10 pts. Final draft: 65 pts. 75 pts./25% | 4-5 pages/1500 words | First draft: July 11 Final draft: July 15 |
| Form Analysis Paper | First draft: 10 pts. Final draft: 90 pts. 100 pts./33% | 6-7 pages/2000-2500 words | First draft: July 29 Final draft: Aug. 5 |
| Attendance and Participation | 25 pts./8% | N/A | N/A |
| Total: 300 points | | | |

****All students *must* check their email and Canvas site daily****

****All assignment guidelines and rubrics are available on Canvas****

Grading Scale:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| A | 100-94% |
| A- | <94-90% |
| B+ | <90-87% |
| B | <87-84% |
| B- | <84-80% |
| C+ | <80-77% |
| C | <77-74% |
| C- | <74-70% |
| D+ | <70-67% |
| D | <67-64% |
| D- | <64-61% |
| Failing | <61-0% |

Late Work:

All assignments are due *via Canvas* prior to the start of class on the noted due date, with no exceptions! If an emergency occurs that affects your ability to complete your work, please notify me *as soon as possible*. If you fail to hand in an assignment, or hand it in late without prior arrangements, you will receive a zero on that assignment. I reserve the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance Policy:

It is crucial that you not only attend class, but also participate to the best of your ability. I will be taking attendance every class and anyone found to be signing the attendance sheet for another student will automatically forfeit their attendance points. If you are more than 15 minutes late for class, you will be counted as absent. You are allowed 3 absences from class without penalty. Any absences after the third will severely affect your final grade. Participation will be factored into your final attendance grade.

***It is imperative that you attend class on time and participate fully!**

UF Policy: In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

Final Grade Appeals:

Students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Department of English Program Assistant (4008 Turlington Hall).

Technology Policy:

Since you are required to fully participate in this course, which largely depends on class discussion, you will ONLY be allowed to use laptops or other computing devices for note-taking or other class-related purposes. If you choose to use a computer during class, be prepared to show me your notes at any time. Anyone found using their laptops for purposes other than class activities will be asked to leave class and will forfeit their attendance points.

Statement of Composition (C) and Humanities (H) Credit:

This course can satisfy the General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general.education.requirement.aspx>

Statement of Writing Requirement:

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/writing.and.math.requirement.aspx>

Statement of Student Disability Services:

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Statement on Harassment:

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment see: <http://www.hr.ufl.edu/eo/sexharrassment.htm>

Safe Space Policy:

Each of us brings a unique perspective to the classroom that enriches the learning experience for everyone. This classroom will be constructed as a safe space where all voices are heard and respected. Language and actions that compromise this goal by harassing, disrespecting, or promoting violence against any group or individual will not be tolerated. This includes blatant rudeness directed toward the professor or any other student present or not. To that end, I will ask anyone who disrupts the safe space to leave the classroom.

Statement on Academic Honesty:

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student.honor.code.aspx>

**Under no circumstance will any academic dishonesty be tolerated. If you are found plagiarizing in any way, you will receive a penalty of a failing grade on your assignment and, upon my review, be reported to the university.

Course Schedule: **Subject to Revision**

WEEK ONE:
NATIVE AMERICA AND EUROPEAN COLONIALISM

Mon., June 27

- Introductions and syllabus overview
- Why do we study literature?
- Establishing vocabulary

Tues., June 28

- Introduction to Native American and Colonialist Literature
- The Iroquois Creation Story (C)
- The Navajo Creation Story (C)

Wed., June 29

- Winnebago, Sioux, and Navajo Trickster Tales (C)
- DUE: RESPONSE PAPER #1***

Thurs., June 30

- Tecumseh – Speech to the Osages (C)
- Thomas Paine – From *III. Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs* (C)

Fri., July 1

- Judith Sargent Murray – *On the Equality of the Sexes* (C)
- Deadline to sign up for presentations via Canvas***

WEEK TWO:
ABOLITIONISM

Mon., July 4 – NO CLASS; HOLIDAY

Tues., July 5

- Introduction to Abolitionism
- Harriet Jacobs – Selections from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* – up to “The Jealous Mistress” (C)

Wed., July 6

- Harriet Jacobs – Selections from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* - up to “A Perilous Passage in the Slave Girl’s Life” (C)
 - Sojourner Truth – “Ain’t I a Woman” speech (C)
- DUE: RESPONSE PAPER #2***

Thurs., July 7

-Frederick Douglass – From *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself* (C)

GROUP PRESENTATION (Memoir)

Fri., July 8

-Angelina E. Grimke – From *Appeal to the Christian Women of the South* (C)

WEEK THREE:
ROMANTICISM and THE GOTHIC

Mon., July 11

-Peer revising for Historical Situation Paper

DUE: FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORICAL SITUATION PAPER

Tues., July 12

-Introduction to Romanticism and the American Gothic

-Emily Dickinson – “A Wounded Deer—leaps highest” and “Because I could not stop for Death” (C)

Wed., July 13

-Washington Irving – “Rip Van Winkle” (C)

DUE: RESPONSE PAPER #3

Thurs., July 14

-Washington Irving – “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (C)

GROUP PRESENTATION (Short Story)

Fri., July 15

-Edgar Allan Poe – “The Raven” and “Annabel Lee” (C)

DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF HISTORICAL SITUATION PAPER

WEEK FOUR:
REALISM and MODERNISM

Mon., July 18

-Introduction to Realism and Modernism

-Selections from *The Yellow Kid* comics (C)

-Stephen Crane – “Behold, the grave of a wicked man” (C)

Tues., July 19

-e.e. cummings – “she being Brand” (C)

-T.S. Eliot – “Tradition and the Individual Talent” (C)

GROUP PRESENTATION (Essay)

Deadline to email Form Analysis Topic for approval: 5pm

Wed., July 20

-Kate Chopin – *The Awakening*, chapters 1-12

DUE: RESPONSE PAPER #4

Thurs., July 21

-Kate Chopin – *The Awakening*, chapters 13-26

Fri., July 22

-Kate Chopin – *The Awakening*, chapters 27-end

WEEK FIVE:**THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE and CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE****Mon., July 25**

-Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance and Contemporary Literature

-Sylvia Plath – “Daddy” (C)

-Anne Sexton – “Ringing the Bells” (C)

GROUP PRESENTATION (Poetry)

Tues., July 26

-Nella Larsen – “The Wrong Man” (C)

Wed., July 27

-Art Spiegelman – *Maus* (vol. 1), chapters 1-3

GROUP PRESENTATION (Graphic Literature)

DUE: RESPONSE PAPER #5

Thurs., July 28

-Art Spiegelman – *Maus* (vol. 1), chapters 4-end

Fri., July 29

-Peer revising for Form Analysis paper

DUE: FIRST DRAFT OF FORM ANALYSIS PAPER

WEEK SIX:**Mon., August 1 – NO CLASS****Tues., August 2**

-Octavia Butler – *Dawn*, part I and II: “Womb” and “Family”

GROUP PRESENTATION (Novel)

Wed., August 3

-Octavia Butler – *Dawn*, part III: “Nursery”

DUE: RESPONSE PAPER #6

Thurs., August 4

-Octavia Butler – *Dawn*, part IV: “The Training Floor”

Fri., August 5

-Wrap-up

DUE: FORM ANALYSIS FINAL DRAFT