



**ENGL 2328-101CL
American Literature II
Spring 2022
MW 8-9:20, LRC 257**

Instructor Information:

Dr. Brian Anderson
Email: banderson@com.edu or through Blackboard message tool
Telephone: 409-933-8186 (office)

Student Hours and Location (Office Hours): LRC, Suite B (Humanities Suite)
MTW 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:30-11 a.m.
Other times by appointment. Virtual appointments also available.

Required Textbook:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 1865 to the Present, Shorter Ninth Edition

Course Description: A survey of American literature from the Civil War to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Requirements/Major Assignments

Besides the major assignments listed below, class activities and teaching tools may include discussion, group work, presentations, videos, and supplemental readings. All learning activities, whether formally graded or not, may be used in evaluation and assessment. Attendance is essential to success.

Student Journals

Students will write journal entries based on assigned topics designed to reflect and build on class discussions. In most cases, you will be asked to write journals at home and bring them to the next class period. (Due dates will not always be noted on syllabus, but they will be announced in class.) These will be collected in class. Journal entries should be at least one page (double-spaced) and should be printed from a computer and formatted according to MLA guidelines. If you have trouble printing, you may email me the journal before class. Journals will be graded on quality of thought and sincerity of effort. While grammar and punctuation are not stressed, attention to these matters will improve readability and clarity. Points will be deducted for journals that are late or otherwise incomplete. I will not accept journals that are written in class on the day they are due.

Essay Assignments

For critical-essay assignments, students will complete analytical literary papers focused on a work or author read this semester (possible topics will be distributed with the assignment) and based on a specific critical approach. Papers should be formatted according to MLA guidelines and should include a Works Cited list of appropriate resources and research. Separate deadlines for each assignment may include turning in the topic or working thesis statement.

The first essay will be shorter, less formal, and will result more from your responses to guided questions as a reader. The longer, critical research essay assignment will be based on close reading or another formal critical approach (such as historical criticism) and will include a research requirement. You will receive separate instructions and additional guidance for this assignment. A grading rubric will also be distributed.

Final Exam

The final exam may consist of a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and short-essay questions to assess your knowledge of the readings, the contextual material and discussions, lecture notes, and other ideas. The test will cover the entire semester. You will be allowed to use your notes.

Although I will give you some review information for the exam, it does not only involve recalling memorized ideas. The exam involves some critical thinking about the questions and concepts learned in the class, so that you will have to think about what you have already read. The students who do the best on this exam have kept up with the readings in the class, engaged in the classroom discussions, and kept notes as suggested.

Quizzes and Minor Assignments

Quizzes may be given on the reading assignments during class. Quizzes may be open-ended or may consist of objective questions. If necessary because of missed classes, some quizzes and discussions may be administered through Blackboard. I may also count group-discussion sheets or oral responses as quiz grades or minor-assignment grades, although group work always impacts a student's professionalism grade as well.

Creative Project

Students will design and **present** a creative project based on topic related to American literature. Collaboration on the creative projects, depending on the topic, may be allowed. Details for this assignment as well as a list of topics will be distributed in class. You will be asked to submit your selected topic ahead of time. Additional assistance and ideas for this project will be available on Blackboard. Students will be graded on the quality, creativity, and preparation of their project and presentation.

COM Symposium

Please let me know if you are interested in developing a research idea for this class into a COM Symposium presentation. This year, the symposium is Friday, April 1, 2022. The abstract submission deadline is Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. A successful proposal can lead to significant additional grade consideration, but the student must conference with me about the project first. Whether you work with me or not, it's a great opportunity. Speak with me if you'd like to learn more and/or visit: <http://www.com.edu/symposium>.

Extra Credit

See below.

Determination of Grade:

Course Assignments and Grading/Methods of Evaluation

Journal Assignments/Online Work	100 points (average)
Quizzes/Minor Assignments	50 points (average)
Professionalism/Participation	100 points
First Essay (Essay 1)	100 points
Critical Research Essay (Essay 2)	150 points
Creative Project	100 points
Final Exam	100 points

Total: 700 points

Grading scale: Grading scale: 630-700 = A

560-629 = B

490-559 = C

420-489 = D

419 and below = F

Notes: There may be some adjustment of point distributions, values, or assignments as needed to correct for errors or changes in assignments/schedules. Any extra-credit points will be added as raw points.

Blackboard “My Grades”: Running point totals and current grades will be posted on Blackboard. Remember that the Blackboard grade display may be incomplete at any given time and is simply for your convenience (not a substitute for the instructor’s official records). Certain assignment points, like extra credit, may not be posted until the end of the semester. You are responsible for keeping track of your progress in the class. Your final grades will be made available through WebAdvisor at the end of the semester. The Blackboard total at the end of the semester is considered official.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policies:

Late Work/Make-up Policy: Students are expected to turn work in on time. If a student cannot attend class for some reason, he or she should make other arrangements to turn in assignments on time. Late work (such as journals) will only be accepted for a valid reason and will be penalized 20% per business day. Normally, in-class assignments cannot be made up, since they are partly designed to encourage your attendance and active learning. However, the lowest formal quiz grade may be dropped (depending on number of quizzes given). Make-up exams and quizzes will only be given with prior permission of the instructor, and documentation may be required for emergencies or school-related absence if a student requests a make-up. Please plan accordingly and contact me ahead of time if you know you have a situation.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered for attending certain presentations, lectures, plays, and other performances outside of class. These will be announced as the opportunities arise. Points vary by semester. Extra credit may also be given for completing bonus online discussions and other class activities as announced. Some extra-credit opportunities (for help with a particular task, for instance) may be offered on a first-come basis. Additionally, I will usually award a few extra-credit points (1-3) to any student who brings an error in classroom instructions or documents (including typos) to my attention. Individual extra credit will *not* be offered as a way of remediating grade deficiencies at the end of the semester. Just email me politely if you see something (or even if you think you see something).

Attendance policy: Regular attendance is expected and counts toward the student's professionalism grade. If you cannot attend class because of some emergency, you should call or email me as soon as possible before class (this does not excuse the absence; it just lets me know you will be missing). You should also arrange to obtain any missed notes or assignment instructions from another student or from me during office hours, and you should seek out available online materials.

Additionally, a student who misses more than four classes may be considered ineligible to receive a grade higher than a "C" for the course, regardless of reason for absences or quality of work completed.

Points will be deducted for tardiness and leaving early (for whatever reason). An occasional incident of lateness due to circumstances out of the student's control is understandable, but habitual lateness will affect the student's professionalism grade.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (For purposes of this course, written communication can also occur through Blackboard.)

Additional clarification on communication: I will answer questions submitted through the Blackboard message tool or regular email in a timely manner, that day whenever possible, but please keep in mind that emails sent late at night or on the weekend may not be answered until the next day.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.	Social Responsibility (SR)	Critical essay assignments; quizzes and discussions
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Critical essay assignments

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.		Critical essay assignments
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.		Critical essay assignments, journals
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.	Critical Thinking (CT) and Communication Skills (CS)	Critical essay assignments

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams -- is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam, and the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, or using someone else’s words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action and remediation.

The plagiarism and academic-dishonesty policy applies to all written work submitted for this class, including tests, journals, quizzes, online forums, and essays. If you use anything from another source, you must document properly using MLA standards. Making up quotes or falsifying information will also be construed as academic dishonesty. Reusing your own assignments from an earlier class or this class (except for your own discussion posts or journal assignments for papers, as explained in the class) is also not allowed; please ask me if you need guidance on this.

Please note that not all papers will necessarily be checked for plagiarism; the decision to check a particular paper for possible plagiarism is made based on my professional judgment and expertise, in part garnered from years of grading student papers.

Avoiding Plagiarism Links and Resources: See links and resources in the Blackboard course on the course home page and in the “Writing Assistance” folder.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dean of Academic Programs Rocky Barney at rbarney@com.edu or 409-933-8727.

Additional Course Policies and Guidelines

1. **Professionalism.** A student’s professionalism or participation grade is based on attendance and contribution to class discussions, group work, completion of minor assignments, and related activities. Participation points will be given for substantive classroom contributions and completion of in-class assignments (which may also count as separate quiz grades). Participation points may be deducted for missing class, disruptive behavior (including texting, working on other classes, etc.), or not completing reading or in-class assignments. A student will be awarded a final professionalism grade reflecting his or her overall attendance and participation as evaluated by the instructor (see separate rubric). Students engaged in disruptive or unprofessional behavior may also be asked to leave the class or referred to the appropriate student supervisors, as stated in college policy.

A caveat regarding participation: I do not penalize students for being shy or introverted. Quality of participation is valued more highly than quantity. If you are a naturally quiet person, I will most likely recognize this, and I will expect you to contribute as much as you can to discussions and contribute to group work in other ways. For all students, attentiveness and listening (to me and others) are also considered forms of quality participation.

2. **Policy on cell phones and laptops.** Please be courteous to others and do not use cell phones or other devices while I am talking, during class discussions, or while we’re working on something else. Use of cell phones at inappropriate times will result in penalties to the professionalism/participation grade. We may sometimes use cell phones for group activities or other purposes. Cell phones should not be accessed during quizzes or tests. Please use common sense and courtesy. Additionally, video recording of the instructor or class is not permitted, and taking phone photos as a way of taking notes is not advised.

3. **Assignment standards.** All work submitted for evaluation in this class result from the student's own work, be proofread, and show mature and serious attention to the assignment. Assignments should be formatted according to MLA guidelines unless otherwise specified. Some assignments may be required to be submitted via
4. **Caveat on grading.** The instructor reserves the right to make subjective decisions on student grades and assessment based on his own expertise and judgment in the subject matter. The instructor also reserves the right to assign a final grade based on a student's overall mastery of the material and improvement over the course of the semester.
5. **Syllabus changes.** The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and/or schedule as needed. You will be duly notified of any such changes in advance.
6. **Blackboard.** Students are expected to be familiar (or become familiar) with the technology and software they must use for this course, including the Blackboard Learning System. Some assignments and other materials may be released on Blackboard. Let me know if you need assistance.
7. **Withdrawals.** Students are not permitted a set number of absences. Although I reserve the right to drop a student, at my discretion, who has stopped attending, students retain responsibility for withdrawing themselves if they need to do so for any reason. Students should also be aware that they may receive an "F" in the class for failure to attend or complete assignments. After the official drop date, a "W" will not be given as a grade for any reason, and "I" grades will only be considered in rare, emergency situations beyond the student's control (and only when a student has otherwise successfully completed most of the work for the course). If you have any questions about your grade or ability to complete the course, please contact me before making the decision to drop. If you have questions about the state's "six-drop policy" or your status with regard to that policy, please see your advisor. Please see general withdrawal policy below.
8. **Classroom Conduct:** College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook>. Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.

In addition to explicitly stated policies, the instructor expects that students will observe rules of common courtesy and will conduct themselves in a way that is befitting of college students and conducive to creating a serious and professional learning environment.

All policies and procedures are designed to encourage fairness, facilitate professional interaction, and improve student success. I have formulated and revised these policies and procedures based on classroom experience and seeing what does and does not work.

Course Outline and Schedule

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

(Schedule and reading assignments subject to change at instructor's discretion or to correct for errors; additional readings may also be assigned. Any changes will be reasonable, fair, and announced in advance.)

Note: As indicated by the course description, this is a reading-intensive course. Focus will be on reading and analyzing the texts, and your completion of the reading assignments is critical for the success of the class and for your individual success. **You should read the assignment for each date before coming to class on that date.**

No readings are optional unless indicated. Page numbers are provided for your convenience; please look in the index if you cannot find something or if page numbers seem incorrect. Read the author introductions whenever possible.

Reconstruction and Realism (1865-1914):

- 1/19 Course introduction; review syllabus; other matters.
Why Study Literature?
Discussion of campus resources.
(MLK Day, Jan. 17)

- 1/24 Introduction to Mark Twain and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Begin reading *Huckleberry Finn* (Chapter I)
Journal #1 Due

- 1/26 Read Period Introduction, pp. 1-20
Mark Twain bio, pp. 101-04
Selections from *Huck Finn*, pp. 123-29 (Chapters 2-3); 131-149 (Chapters 5-8)
You may read the chapters of *Huck Finn* online if you don't have the textbook yet.
First essay assigned.

- 1/31 Selections *Huck Finn*, continued
Huck Finn, pp. 112-52 (Chapters 9-12); pp. 158-74 (Chapters 15-17)
Discuss summary of omitted chapters and last parts of novel.

- 2/2 *Huck Finn*, continued
Critical readings on Huck Finn controversies in text, pp. 295-306 (specific readings TBA); discussion/video of other viewpoints (distributed).
- 2/7 *Huck Finn*, completion
- 2/9 Intro. to Ambrose Bierce, pp. 326-27
"Chickamauga," pp. 333-38
Additional readings on Civil War (handouts) and Naturalism.
Jack London, intro. and "To Build a Fire," pp. 639-52
- 2/14 Kate Chopin, *Kate Chopin*, pp. intro., pp. 441-42; "The Story of an Hour," pp. 446-48; "The Storm," pp. 455-59; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" and "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper,'" pp. 509-24.
Additional readings on Gilman and Chopin (handouts).
Online: "Yellow Wallpaper" short video (optional)
- 2/16 Booker T. Washington, intro. and "Up From Slavery," pp. 469-79; W.E.B. DuBois, intro. and selections from "The Souls of Black Folk," pp. 559-77. Washington memoir pages (distributed)

Between the Wars (1914-1945):

- 2/21 Read Period Introduction, pp. 667-87
Ezra Pound, pp. "From *A Retrospect*," pp. 809-811
William Carlos Williams, "From *Spring and All*," pp. 814-15

Introduction to Modernism
Online: Period Introduction Illustrations
- 2/23 Robert Frost, intro. and all poems, pp. 735-50
(Focus on "The Road Not Taken" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.")
First Essay Due
Critical Research Essay assigned
- 2/28 William Carlos Williams, intro. and all poems, pp. 786-95
T.S. Eliot, intro. and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," pp. 827-33
Wallace Stevens, "The Idea of Order at Key West," p. 784
- 3/2 More background on Modernism era and Harlem Renaissance; Mid-semester check-up
- 3/7 Langston Hughes: intro. and all poems, pp. 1036-44
"From *The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain*," pp. 816-18

Online: Langston Hughes Biography (video).
 “All About that Troublesome Word” (distributed in class or online)

- 3/9 William Faulkner, intro. pp. 1005-09
 “A Rose for Emily” pp. 1009-15
 “Barn Burning,” pp. 1015-27
 Faulkner and Hurston intro. (Southern Renaissance video)
 Online: Faulkner: A Life In Literary Genius (film – optional)

3/14-3/20 SPRING BREAK

Post-War America and Postmodernism: Literature since 1945:

- 3/21 Faulkner and Southern Literature, continued
- 3/23 Zora Neale Hurston, intro., pp. 948-950
 “Sweat,” pp. 950-58
 “How It Feels to Be Colored Me,” pp. 958-61
- 3/28 Ernest Hemingway, intro., pp. 1030-32
 “Hills Like White Elephants,” pp. 1032-35
 Additional readings and articles on Hemingway (handouts distributed online and in class).
- 3/30 Hemingway, “Snows of Kilimanjaro,” copies distributed; Hemingway continued
- 4/4 Read period introduction, pp. 1069-90
 Read Tennessee Williams, intro. and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, pp. 1116-163;
 view video introduction to New Orleans; begin viewing play
 Elizabeth Bishop, “The Fish,” pp. 1106-08
Online: Review Period Introduction illustrations
- 4/6 *A Streetcar Named Desire*, pp. 1163-81
Online: Watch video, “Tennessee Williams in New Orleans”;
- 4/11 *Streetcar Named Desire*, continued
- 4/13 *Streetcar*, continued
- 4/15-4/17 Spring Holiday
- 4/18 Spiegelman and the Growth of Comics and Graphic Novels as Art, *Maus*, pp. 1587-1604
 Also, Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* excerpts, copies to be distributed

- 4/20 Joy Harjo, pp. 1605-13
Sandra Cisneros, intro. and "Woman Hollering Creek," pp. 1613-22
Toni Morrison, "Recitatif," pp. 1429-42
- 4/25 Modern Fiction, continued:
Lahiri, "Sexy," pp. 1691-1707; Raymond Carver, "Cathedral," pp. 1531-42;
Updike, "Separating," pp. 1452-60
Online: Interviews with Lahiri, etc.
- 4/27 **Creative projects presented**
Critical Essays due 4/29 on Blackboard
- 5/2 **Creative projects presented**
- 5/4 Creative Nonfiction, readings TBA
David Foster Wallace, "Consider the Lobster," pp. 1656-61 and "This is Water"
(distributed in class).
- 5/9 **Final Exam**
- 5/11 *Conference Day or Make-up Day as Needed*

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or

hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is March 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 25. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 4.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland’s Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with Governor Abbott’s May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.