



**English 2328.101CL  
American Literature II  
Fall 2021  
MW 11–12:20pm**

**Instructor Information:**

**Name:** James Francis

**Email:** jfrancisiii@com.edu

**Office Hours:** MW 10 - 11am and by appointment

**Course Description:**

A survey of American literature from the end of the Civil War to the present day. 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.

**Course Requirements:** Students are required to write in different genres both in and out of class. These writing assignments include short reflective pieces and longer, researched essays. There will be no exams, but there may be short reading quizzes. Daily writing and reading are requirements for this course. The workshop portion of the class requires students to engage in discussions about writing and reading with their peers. The class stresses collaboration as well as independent writing and research. In this class, the instructor guides the students in analysis of various texts and the students engage in discussions and writing about the assigned readings. The students are required to engage in discussions about the assigned readings, analyze and write about those readings.

**ALL READING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS ON THE DAY THE WORK IS TO BE DISCUSSED, AS INDICATED ON THIS SYLLABUS.**

**Writing assignments:** Students will be required to write 3 short essays that have a page length requirement of 2-3 pages and one longer research paper of approximately 4-5 pages. Page lengths will be enforced on all papers turned in for credit. Each paper will be evaluated on content, organization, unity, development, style, grammar, analytic proficiency and adherence to MLA documentation and formatting rules. The student will be given an opportunity to revise and resubmit one of the short essays for, potentially, a higher grade. We will spend a sufficient

amount of class time on MLA, so no excuses will be accepted for improper documentation. You will receive in-class help on all paper assignments.

Additional writing assignments will be assigned during the semester, as described in the class assignments section.

### **Student Learner Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

**General Education Core Objectives:** Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

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)	<b>Critical essay assignments; quizzes; Discussions</b>
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, discussions
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.	Critical Thinking(CT) and Communication Skills (CS)	Critical Essay assignments; Quizzes; discussions
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.	Critical Thinking(CT) and Communication Skills (CS)	Critical Essay assignments, discussions
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

**Determination of Course Grade:** A percentage system is used for grading is used in this course. Your grade for this class is composed of the following:

Short Papers (3):	30%
Research Essay:	40%
Participation & Shorter Assignments:	20%
Presentation:	10%

**Late Work Policy:** A student is responsible for any work missed. Some assignments such as peer reviews and other group work may not be made up and will receive no points. For missed assignments that can be made up, the student must turn those in upon the next class day of the face-to-face class. Failure to turn in missed in-class assignments upon the next class day will receive no credit. If an assignment is due the day a student misses, the student must turn that assignment in the next class day or it will be considered late. It is the student's responsibility to contact me about any missed assignments.

**Attendance Policy:** Students must attend the face-to-face class each week. More than 3 absences or failure to participate over a two-week period may result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course.

**Tardiness Policy:** Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will be treated as an unexcused absence.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Failure to attend classes will not constitute an official or automatic withdrawal. It is the student's responsibility to acquire and complete the drop form when she or he has decided to drop the class. Any student who fails to withdraw will receive a grade of "F" for the class. The instructor is not responsible for dropping students. Please visit <http://www.com.edu/admissions/drop-notification> to obtain more information.

**Success Tips for Students:** Come to class on time and keep up with your work! If for some reason you cannot make it to class, be sure and contact me in advance to let me know what is going on with you. Stay current with your classwork and take good notes. Meet with me at least every other week, even if briefly.

**ADA Statement:** College of the Mainland complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-993-8520. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center. For More information, see the COM Web page for Counseling and Disabilities, <https://www.com.edu/counseling/disability-services>

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention is 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.

**Classroom Conduct Policy:** 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.php>. 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.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as presenting a plagiarized paper — is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that assignment and the student will 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, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action. Access this link to learn [How To Avoid Plagiarism](#).

**Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism:** <http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

**Concerns/Questions Statement:** 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 the Department Chair, Brian Anderson, at 409-938-8186, or [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu).