



**English 2328-301C3-306C3**  
**American Literature II**  
**Fall 2025**  
**Time and days of course**

**Instructor Information:** Donny Wankan, [dwankan@com.edu](mailto:dwankan@com.edu), 281-229-6476

**Office hours and location:** N224, M-F 9:35-10:15; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 2:45-3:00; Gator Time per DHS schedule

**Required Textbook/Materials:** Students will need access to the internet and a laptop or computer. They will also need paper and a pen for some in-class assignments.

We will read five longer works throughout the semester: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Mark Twain), *My Antonia* (Willa Cather), *Invisible Man* (Ralph Ellison), *Batman: Year One* (Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli), and *White Noise* (Don DeLillo). We'll also read various shorter works. It is the student's responsibility to attain copies of the assigned readings.

**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.

**Course Requirements:**

Besides the assignments as described below, class activities and teaching tools may include presentations, videos, and supplemental readings. Students are expected to read and review all material assigned.

**Reading Responses and Quizzes**

Students will complete written responses and quizzes to demonstrate their completion of the assigned readings.

**Research and Analysis**

Students will incorporate research into various writing and project assignments.

**Exams/Projects**

Students knowledge of the course material will be assessed via traditional exams and creative projects demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the course material.

**Professionalism**

Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate in the classroom assignments and activities, and show courtesy and respect to the instructor and fellow students. The professionalism score will reflect how well the students meet those expectations.

**Digital Assignments**

Much of the coursework will be assigned and turned in electronically via COM's learning system D2L Brightspace. Turning in work in assigned formats is required, not optional. It is the student's responsibility to work with the college to correct any log in problems. If a log in problem occurs, students

must do the following: immediately inform the instructor, turn in the work on time via email or other agreed upon method, immediately correct the problem with the college, and turn in the assignment via the required system again once the problem has been corrected. COM can correct such problems generally on the same day, so repeated failure to use the required assignment system will result in not receiving credit for assignments.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

Quizzes/Reading Responses 30% Research and Analysis 20% Exams/Projects 40% Professionalism 10%

Grading Scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59.

Students will be given a letter grade rather than a number grade in this course.

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Late work may be accepted for classwork and essays within limits and according to instructor discretion. Students will lose points on assignments accepted late. Major Writing assignments and projects will not be accepted more than one day late. I will not continue to accept late assignments if it becomes a habit.

Students will have access to class slideshows, online assignments, and course documents through course software online, so due dates will apply even with absences. Exceptions will be made only in exceptional circumstances. Technology problems, extracurricular activities, and tests or projects in other classes are not acceptable excuses for missing assignment due dates.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance and punctuality are both requirements of the course. Frequent absences and tardies will be penalized by a reduction in the professionalism score. Consistently absent or tardy students (6 or more absences and 7 or more tardies) will be dropped from the course, or they will be given a failing grade if W day has passed.

**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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

**Student Learner Outcomes and Core Objectives**

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objectives	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.	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills	Discussions, Final Exam
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or	Critical Thinking, Social Responsibility	Analysis Essay, Final Exam

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.	Critical Thinking	Creative Project, Final Exam
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.	Critical Thinking	Reading Journals, Analysis Essay
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.	Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility, Communication Skills	Analysis Essay

**Academic Dishonesty:** Student work must be original and produced by the student who turns it in. Any work copied from other students (even if revised), created by online text generators, resubmitted for multiple assignments, or copied from published writers (even if revised) will not be credited.

Students will not be given chances to redo assignments in instances of academic dishonesty.

Repeated instances of academic dishonesty will result in a reduction in the Professionalism score and/or discipline referrals.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website or other source into your paper with proper citation, or 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 and remediation. Writecheck.com provides some guidance on this issue (<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>), and Grammarly in Google Docs also has a plagiarism check if you want to double check your work for proper documentation.

Student Concerns:

**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 D. Brian Anderson (College of the Mainland) at 409-933-8186, [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu).

**Course outline:**

This is a tentative schedule of the concepts, readings, and assignments. It will very likely change.  
No readings are optional.

**Week 1**

Course Introduction  
Getting to know each other  
Emily Dickinson, [There's a certain Slant of light,] [I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,] [My Life had stood - a Loaded Gun,] [When I was small, a Woman died - ,] [I heard a Fly buzz - when I died -, ]  
[Much Madness is divinest Sense -]  
Begin *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Week 2**

Walt Whitman "One's-Self I Sing." "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "The Wound-Dresser"  
Toni Morrison's Introduction to *Huckleberry Finn*  
Literary Theory: Intro paragraph, and Section 1, "What is Literary Theory?"

**Week 3**

Jack London "To Build a Fire"  
Ambrose Bierce "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"  
Sarah Orne Jewett "A White Heron"

**Week 4**

complete, discuss *Huck Finn*  
begin *My Antonia*  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" and "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper,'"

**Week 5**

W.E.B. DuBois, from *The Souls of Black Folk*, section I  
Paul Laurence Dunbar "An Ante-Bellum Sermon," "We Wear the Mask," "Sympathy,"  
"Frederick Douglass"

**Week 6**

Complete, discuss *My Antonia*  
Begin *Invisible Man*  
Sui Sin Far, "Mrs. Spring Fragrance"

**Week 7**

Zitkala-Ša (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) "Impressions of an Indian Childhood:" "My Mother,"  
"The Legends," "The Big Red Apples"  
Mina Loy "Feminist Manifesto"

**Week 8**

Zora Neale Hurston "Sweat." "How It Feels to Be Colored Me"

Wallace Stevens "The Snow Man." "The Emperor of Ice-Cream." "Disillusionment of Ten O'Clock." "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"

#### **Week 9**

Complete, discuss *Invisible Man*  
Begin *Batman: Year One*  
William Carlos Williams "The Red Wheelbarrow," "This is Just to Say,"  
"Landscape with the Fall of Icarus," "The Widow in Springtime"  
Robert Frost "Mending Wall." "Out, Out—," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,"  
"Desert Places"  
Earnest Hemingway "Hills like White Elephants"

#### **Week 10**

Langston Hughes "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "Mother to Son," "I, Too," "Café 3AM."  
"Theme for English B"  
Claude McKay "Harlem Shadows," "The Lynching." "If We Must Die." "Africa." "America"  
Jean Toomer "Cane," "Georgia Dusk." "Portrait in Georgia," "Seventh Street," "Her Lips Are  
Copper Wire"  
William Faulkner "Barn Burning"  
Ann Petry "Like a Winding Sheet"

#### **Week 11**

Complete, discuss *Batman: Year One*  
Begin *White Noise*  
Eudora Welty "Petrified Man"  
Elizabeth Bishop "The Fish," "The Armadillo," "Sestina"

#### **Week 12**

Robert Lowell "The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket," "Skunk Hour," "For the Union Dead"  
Gwendolyn Brooks "We Real Cool," "The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till," "To the  
Diaspora"  
Philip K. Dick "Precious Artifact"  
Octavia Butler "Bloodchild"  
N. K. Jemisin "Valedictorian"

#### **Week 13**

Maxine Hong Kingston "No Name Woman"  
Yusef Komunyakaa "Facing It"  
Leslie Marmon Silko "Lullaby"

#### **Week 14**

Louise Erdrich "Fleur"  
Jhumpa Lahiri "Sexy"  
Complete, discuss *White Noise*

#### **Week 15**

Discussion/Review of Semester's readings

Discussion/Review of Semester's readings  
Complete and turn in Creative Project/Timeline

## **Week 16**

Final Exam  
Grade Conferences  
Self and Instructor Evaluations

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## **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://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *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.*

**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:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN 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 FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN 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.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.