



Course Syllabus: A Survey of American Literature II

ENGL 2623-x20
Spring 2023

Contact Information

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Course Description

The course's primary goal: English 2623 is a literature course that introduces the student to American literary works produced after 1865, encompassing what are generally known as the Realistic, Modern, and Post-Modern periods. The class will emphasize the characteristics of these periods and representational (and occasionally non-representational) traits of the canonical authors.

Secondary objectives: Students will examine ways of knowing in the humanities and ways of approaching literature as a means of understanding life and of interpreting human experience. In particular, this class should also reveal to students the various threads that make up the fabric of our American culture and the impact these texts have on contemporary America and the collective consciousness of our country.

Departmental goals 1.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 4.1 are also addressed. (See departmental website for clarification.)

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Textbook: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vols. C, D, and E*, ninth edition.

Student Handbook

Refer to: Student Handbook https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Incidences of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment. Furthermore, I will follow university policy and report the violation. A second violation will result in the student being dropped from the

class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%.

	Assignments
Three major exams:	45%
Four short essays:	35%
Class participation and quizzes	20%

Essay Drafts

While I do not require that you turn in rough drafts, I encourage you to do so. If you turn in a rough draft, I will read it in a timely manner. Then I will offer you three or four suggestions as to how to improve the assignment. However, I will NOT mark and edit your draft. (I will comment on a maximum of two drafts.)

Mid-term Grades

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's MSU account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me.

Late Work

I will accept an essay for twenty-four hours after its being due—with a letter grade penalty. After twenty-four hours, I will not accept the late assignment. Class participation grades and quizzes cannot be made up.

Drop Date

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **March 20, 2022.**

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a significant source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Covid-19

If you become ill during the semester, please let me know as quickly as possible. I certainly cannot excuse you from assignments, but if I understand the medical difficulties that you are experiencing, I will do my best to make accommodations.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should apply for assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

American Lit 2623: Syllabus (Spring 2023)

Text: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, (9th edition, volumes C, D, and E)

Be sure to CAREFULLY read the introductions to all of the assigned authors.

Week 1 (Jan. 17-20): “Introduction” (1-15); “Realism and Naturalism,” (955-56); Twain (111-15), “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” (115-19) and “The War Prayer” (340-42)

Week 2 (Jan. 23-27): Howells (351-52), “Editha,” (353-62)

Week 3 (Jan. 30-Feb. 3): James (406-09), “Daisy Miller: A Case Study” (410-49)

Week 4 (Feb. 6-10): Crane (1002-04), “The Open Boat” (1048-64); London (1107-08), “To Build a Fire” (1113-24)

Feb. 10: Essay #1 is due. (Twain, Howells, James)

Week 5 (Feb. 13-17): Exam #1 over Realism and Naturalism: Twain, Howells, James, and Crane

Week 6 (Feb. 20-24): Introduction to Volume D: (3-21); Glaspell (Volume D), “Trifles” (240-50)

Week 7 (Feb. 27-Mar. 3): Eliot (352-54), “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (355-58); Frost (218-19), “Mending Wall” (220-21)

Week 8 (Mar. 6-10): Frost (218-19), “The Death of the Hired Man” (221-25); “Home Burial” (225-28); “The Road Not Taken” (230); “Birches” (231-32)

Mar. 10: Essay #2 is due. (Crane, London, Glaspell, Eliot)

March 13-17: Spring Break

Week 9 (Mar. 20-24): Stevens (269-71), “Sunday Morning” (273-76), “The Emperor of Ice-Cream” (272-73); Hughes (833-35), “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (835); “The Weary Blues” (836-37); “Mulatto” (837-38); “Theme for English B” (844)

March 20: Last day to drop with a “W.”

Week 10 (Mar. 21-25): Exam #2 over Modernism and modern poets: Eliot, Frost, Stevens, and Hughes

Week 11 (Apr. 3-7): Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (666-716)

Apr. 7: Essay #3 is due. (Frost, Stevens, or Hughes)

Week 12 (Apr. 10-14): Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (716-64)

Week 13 (Apr. 17-21): (Volume E) Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (73-138)

Apr. 21: Essay #3 is due. (Faulkner)

Week 14 (Apr. 24-28): Introduction to Volume E (3-20); O’Connor (426-27), “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (449-60); Baldwin, “Going to Meet the Man (301-403); Walker, “Everyday Use” (912-19);

Week 15 (May 1-5): Saunders, “Civil War Land in Decline” (1152-65); Spiegelman, *Maus* (1049-66)

May 5: Essay #4 is due. (Williams, O’Connor, Baldwin, Walker, Shepard, or Spiegelman)

Finals Week: (May 6-11): Final exam over Modernism (part II) and Post-Modernism (?): Faulkner, Williams, O’Connor, Baldwin, Walker, Shepard, and Spiegelman

