

English 3293: American Short Story (Midwest Modernism)

Fall 2025

Professor Todd Giles

Bea Wood 232

940-397-4124

todd.giles@msutexas.edu

Class meets 11:00-12:20 MW in PY 100

Office Hours: MWF 10:00–11:00 & TR 11:00–12:00 & by appointment

Required Texts

- Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio*. Norton, 1995. (978-0393967951)
- Cather, Willa. *The Troll Garden*. U of Nebraska P, 2000. (978-0803264038)
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *Babylon Revisited: And Other Stories*. Scribner's, 1996. (978-0684824482)
- Hemingway, Ernest. *In Our Time*. Vintage, 2021. (978-0593311820)
- Hughes, Langston. *The Ways of White Folks*. Vintage, 1990. (978-0679728177)

Course Description

This course will explore three things as they came together at the turn of the previous century: Modernism, Midwestern authors, and the rise of periodicals. As such, we will look at some art, listen to some music, read some stories, and engage with some period magazines.

Course Requirements

(Option # 1)

Assignments	Grade Percent
Daily Writing/Homework/Participation	15%
Archival Paper	25%
Annotated Bibliography	20%
Proposal	10%
Literary Argument Paper	30%

(Option # 2)

Assignments	Grade Percent
Daily Writing/Homework/Participation	15%
Archival Paper	25%
Annotated Bibliography	20%
Proposal	10%
Short Story Paper	30%

Grading Policy

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%.

Daily Writing and Class Activities

Your course grade is directly tied to keeping up with the readings, which means we will have daily in- and out-of-class writings, including brief in-class writing prompts, reading quizzes, in-class small group work, and various short homework assignments. These will be graded on a plus/x/check/minus scale: **(+)** for doing a thorough job (100%); **(x)** for a good job (85%); **(√)** for completing the work in an acceptable fashion (70%); **(-)** for not completing the work or for obvious lack of effort (0%). On occasion, some assignments might, depending on length, count for more than one daily grade. As your grade is determined by your presence and attention to the daily readings, you cannot make up in-class writing or homework.

Class Preparation and Participation

To succeed at your daily writing, you must show that you've closely read, have at least a cursory understanding of the material, and address, to the best of your ability, the writing prompts. I do not expect you to remember exact quotations, but specific examples from the work always help get the point across. It is also good to try to tie in any relevant terminology or critical concepts from class discussions. As you read, take notes and underline/highlight what you believe are key passages in the text (a climactic scene, crucial lines for understanding the work, a summary of the argument, etc.), or things you have trouble understanding. ***Come to each class with comments and questions!**

Plagiarism / Artificial Intelligence Policy

Plagiarism (including AI-generated writing) is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation, whether you use that material in a quotation, paraphrase, or summary. ***All incidents of plagiarism will an automatic F, be reported to the department chair, and kept on file. A second incident of plagiarism in class by the same student will result in the student receiving an F for the course.**

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Attendance Policy

Because this is a discussion-oriented course and the work we do in class is designed to help you understand the readings and improve your critical reading, thinking and writing skills, you must attend class to do well. By failing to regularly attend class you will not understand the critical terminology and concepts necessary to successfully complete the daily writing assignments. You are in college; come to class.

Tardiness Policy

Your behavior in the college classroom should be no different than what will be expected of you as a working professional. Regularly arriving late to class is disruptive to your instructor and your classmates; as such, it will not be tolerated. Students who arrive after the daily writing assignments have begun will automatically receive a minus.

Electronics Policy

Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. If a student is caught using an electronic device during a quiz, they will automatically receive a zero. Likewise, each time a student is seen playing with their cellphone or iPod during class, they will automatically lose credit for any in-class writings, quizzes, homework assignments due that day. I will tell students they are losing credit for the day for the first few weeks of class, after which time it is not my responsibility to alert them.

Other disruptive behavior, including coming in late on a regular basis, chatting with classmates during class discussion or in-class writing, sleeping, or any other behavior not conducive to a mature learning environment, will first receive a warning; if the behavior continues, an instructor drop will be initiated.

Recording Devices

The use of recording devices, including cellphones, is strictly prohibited during class unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA guideline. Reason: academia should provide a space for free-flowing ideas and discussion; surveillance of any sort infringes upon your classmates' and your professor's freedom of expression.

Grade Appeals

I will be happy to try to explain the rationale behind any grade; however, I absolutely do not negotiate, haggle, or argue about grades. Part of my job is to evaluate your work and to assign a written grade to it. I do that to the best of my ability the first time.

Tutoring Support

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Please see our schedule for more information about times and offerings. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities. For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7

tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact Ashley Hurst.

Access to Microsoft 365

All students are able to download Microsoft Office 365 free of charge using their MSU Texas student email address. (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office?ms.officeurl=getoffice365?ms.officeurl=getoffice365>)

University Computer Labs

The University provides four open computer labs throughout the week that feature access to Microsoft Office Suite for writing and internet access for research.

Location	Hours
Clark Student Center	24 hours (Mon-Sun)
Dillard 146	Mon-Thurs 6:00 am–7:00 pm
Moffett Library	Mon-Thurs 8:00 am–10:00 pm; Fri. 8-5; Sat: 10am-6 pm; Sun: 2:00 pm-10 pm
Legacy Hall	24 hours (Mon-Sun)

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative; I reserve the right to amend it with oral notice in class. If you anticipate a problem with due dates, please speak with me well in advance.

Week 1

8/25 Introduction

8/27 Chicago Renaissance Pp; Watch *Autumn Fire* (1931) in class

Week 2

9/1 **No Class**

9/3 **Meet at MOFFETT LIBRARY 2nd Floor Special Collections**

Week 3

9/8 Modernism Pp; Watch *Ballet Mecanique* (1924) in class

9/10 Theodore Dreiser, "The Lost Phoebe" (D2L); Modernism & the Magazines Pp

Week 4

9/15 Cather, "Introduction" – "Flavia and her Artists" *The Troll Garden* (7-31); Watch *The Plow that Broke the Plains* in class (1936); Cather Pp

9/17 Cather, "The Sculptor's Funeral" – "The Garden Lodge" *TG* (32-56)

Week 5

- 9/22 Cather, "A Death in the Desert" – "The Marriage of Phaedra" *TG* (57-93);
Regionalist Art Pp
9/24 Cather, "A Wagner Matinee" – "Paul's Case" *TG* (94-121)

Week 6

- 9/29 Anderson, "The Book of the Grotesque" – "Nobody Knows" *Winesburg, Ohio* (5-29); Watch *Our Town* trailer (1940)
10/1 Anderson, "Godliness" – "Adventure" *Winesburg* (29-64)

Week 7

- 10/6 Anderson, "Respectability" – "Loneliness" *Winesburg* (64-98); **Archival Paper Due**
13/8 Anderson, "An Awakening" – "Sophistication" *Winesburg* (98-138)

Week 8

- 10/13 Hemingway, "On the Quai at Smyrna" – "The Three-Day Blow" *In Our Time* (11-49); Hemingway Pp
10/15 Hemingway, "Chapter V" – "Mr. and Mrs. Elliot" *IOT* (51-88)

Week 9

- 10/20 Hemingway, "Chapter X" – "My Old Man" *IOT* (89-129)
10/22 Hemingway, "Chapter XIV" – "L'Envoi" *IOT* (131-157)

Week 10

- 10/27 Fitzgerald, "The Ice Palace" – "May Day" *Babylon Revisited* (1-74)
10/29 Fitzgerald, "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" – "Winter Dreams" *BR* (75-135);
Annotated Bib Due

Week 11

- 11/3 Fitzgerald, "Absolution" – "The Freshest Boy" *BR* (136-209)
11/5 Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited" – "The Long Way Out" *BR* (210-253); **Proposal Due**

Week 12

- 11/10 Hughes, "Cora Unashamed" – "Passing" *The Ways of White Folks* (3-56)
11/12 Hughes, "A Good Job Gone" – "Red-Headed Baby" *TWOWF* (57-132)

Week 13

- 11/17 Hughes, "Poor Little Black Fellow" – "Mother and Child" *TWOWF* (133-197)
11/19 Hughes, "One Christmas Eve" – "Father and Son" *TWOWF* (199-255)

Week 14

- 11/24 Meridel Le Sueur, "Corn Village" and "Annunciation" (D2L)
11/26 **Gobble Gobble!**

Week 15

12/1 Susan Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers" (D2L)

12/3 Just chillin

Research Paper & Short Story Paper due during Final Exam Time