



Course Syllabus:
A Survey of American Literature II
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

ENGL 2623 Section x10
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Greg Giddings

Office: Bea Wood 235

Office hours: T: 9:30-9:00; W: 9:00-12:00; Th: 8:30-9:30; and by appointment

Office Phone: (940) 397-4476

E-mail: greg.giddings@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Primarily, English 2623 introduces students 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 works and authors.

In addition, 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.

THECB Core Course Objectives and Assessments

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - To assess the student's critical thinking skills, the Research Project rubric will be applied to the Final Exam Essay.
- Communication Skills
 - To assess the student's written communication skills, the Research Project rubric will be applied to the Final Exam Essay.
- Personal Responsibility
 - To assess ethical use of sources as a measure of personal responsibility, the Research Project rubric will be applied to the Final Exam Essay.

- Social Responsibility
 - To assess the student's social responsibility, the Research Project rubric will be applied to the Final Exam Essay.

Textbooks & Instructional Materials

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vols. C,D, and E, tenth edition*

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring and homework help 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. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services. Check the [TASP webpage](#) for times.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student 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 to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the goals and objectives of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare students for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders may be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

For final grades, this class will not use the plus/minus grading system. The following numerical equivalents for final grades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0. For individual assignment grades, an A+ = 98, A = 95, A- = 92; B+ = 88, B = 85, and so on.

Table 1: Percentages allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Description	Percentage
3 Exams (25% each)	Each oral exam—conducted individually via Zoom or in my office, BW 235--will assess the student's familiarity with the assigned readings, as well as the student's understanding of the main ideas covered in my video lectures.	75%
Final: In-class essay	For the final, students will compose an extemporaneous essay in D2L on a topic that I will provide.	10%
Class Participation	Students will assess on the consistency and quality of weekly participation in the Discussion Boards.	15%
Total	n/a	100%

Mid-Term Grades

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through Navigate. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on your 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 make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Learning Center for tutoring services.

Final Exam

Your short essay exam will be available throughout finals week: December 5-10.

Late Work

The class participation component of this class will have hard deadlines. Each post you make must meet the deadline or it will be deleted.

Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **November 23**

For more information, refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Students are expected to be familiar with this platform as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. Students can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU homepage or the portal. [For assistance, submit a help ticket.](#)

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. 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 make an application for such 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 [Disability Support Services](#).

College 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 prohibit 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more

information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

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

Course Schedule:

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. (Scroll down to see course schedule.)

Week	Dates	Literature	Assignment Due
1	Aug. 24-28	“Introduction” (1-15); “Realism and Naturalism,” (405); Twain (131-34), “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” (134-39) and “The War Prayer” (see link)	Class Participation (Twain)
2	Aug. 31-Sept. 4	Howells (351-52), “Editha,” (353-62)	Class Participation (Howells)
3	Sept. 8-11	James (422-25), “Daisy Miller: A Case Study” (425-64)	Class Participation (James)
4	Sept. 14-18	Crane (982-84), “The Open Boat” (1028-44); London (1087-88), “To Build a Fire” (1088-99)	Class Participation (Choose either Crane or London)
5	Sept. 21-25	No reading assignment.	Exam #1 (Twain, Howells, James, Crane, and London)

Week	Dates	Literature	Assignment Due
6	Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Introduction to Volume D: (3-21); Glaspell (261-62), "Trifles" (263-72)	Class Participation (Glaspell)
7	Oct. 5-9	Eliot (368-71), "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (371-74); Frost (241-42), "Mending Wall" (243-44)	Class Participation (Eliot)
8	Oct. 12-16	Frost (241-42), "The Death of the Hired Man" (244-48); "Home Burial" (248-51); "The Road Not Taken" (253); "Birches" (254-55)	Class Participation (Frost)
9	Oct. 19-23	Stevens (291-93), "Sunday Morning" (295-97), "The Emperor of Ice-Cream" (294); Hughes (491), "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"; "The Weary Blues"; "Mulatto"; "Theme for English B" (See poetryfoundation.org)	Class Participation (Choose either Stevens or Hughes)
10	Oct. 26-30	No reading assignment.	Exam #2 (Glaspell and Modern poets: Eliot, Frost, Stevens, and Hughes.
11	Nov. 2-6	Faulkner (774-77), <i>As I Lay Dying</i> (777-826)	Class Participation (First half of the novel)
12	Nov. 9-13	<i>As I Lay Dying</i> (826-72)	Class Participation (Second half of the novel.)
13	Nov. 16-20	(Volume E) Williams (59-62), <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (62-124)	Class Participation (Williams)
14	Nov. 23-24	Introduction to Volume E (3-20); O'Connor (370-71), "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (393-404); Walker (818-19), "Everyday Use" (819-25); Saunders (1028), "CivilWarLand in Bad Decline" (1029-41)	Class Participation (Choose one story.)

Week	Dates	Literature	Assignment Due
15	Nov. 30- Dec. 4	No reading assignment.	Exam #3 (Faulkner, Williams, O'Connor, Walker, and Saunders)

Finals Week: (December 5-10)