

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

American Literature Survey English 2308E (650) Fall/Winter 2013-14

Instructor: Dr. John Kelly

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): English 2341E, 2342F/G, 2343F/G, 2344E, 2345F/G, 2346F/G and 3664E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course offers a survey of important texts and authors from the Puritan and Revolutionary periods to the present. It addresses not only the major movements and styles of American literature associated with such authors as Poe, Dickinson, Twain, Hemingway, and Morrison, but also the innovative work of less familiar Indigenous and ethnic authors.

Objectives:

- Think critically about American literature and culture, and understand the historical and literary contexts of works;
- Be able to distinguish between periods, movements, and styles and discuss the differences between colonial, nineteenth century, modern, and contemporary American literature;
- Develop further the ability to analyze texts critically, and to formulate and produce essays which have a clear, well-articulated intent, and a logical argument supported by adequate evidence from the text(s) under discussion;
- Research critical commentary on literary texts and evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the internet;
- Write a research essay using secondary sources documented using the Modern Language Association (MLA) method.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

DeLillo, Don. *White Noise*. Penguin Books.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Vintage International. Random House.

Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*. Norton Critical Edition.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Plume.

Baym et al. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Eighth Edition. Vols. A to E.

Methods of Evaluation

Study question	(3 pages / 750 words)	10%
Essay # 1	(6 pages / 1500 words)	15%
Essay # 2	(6 pages / 1500 words)	15%
Essay # 3	(8 pages / 2000 words) - research paper	25%
Final Exam		35%
Discussion Board Bonus		1.5%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

FIRST TERM

PART I - COLONIAL LITERATURE

WEEK 1: John Smith, "A Description of New England," John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity," and Roger Williams, "The Bloody Tenet of Persecution."

WEEK 2: William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (read the selections from Book I and II) and Anne Bradstreet poetry selections ("To My Dear and Loving Husband," "Contemplations," and "The Flesh and the Spirit.")

WEEK 3: J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer* (read the selections from Letters III, IX, X, and XII) and Benjamin Franklin, "The Way to Wealth" and *The Autobiography* (Part I).

WEEK 4: Franklin continued and Thomas Jefferson "The Declaration of Independence."

PART II - NINETEENTH CENTURY LITERATURE

WEEK 5: Edgar Allen Poe, "The Man of the Crowd" and Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," and *The Scarlet Letter* ("The Custom-House and *The Scarlet Letter*.)

WEEK 6: Hawthorne continued and Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (selections from chapter I, VII, X, XIV, XXI, and XLI).

WEEK 7: Jacobs continued and Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," and "Self-Reliance."

WEEK 8: Herman Melville, "Bartleby, The Scrivener" and *Moby Dick*.

WEEK 9: Melville, *Moby Dick*.

WEEK 10: Walt Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" and *Song of Myself*.

WEEK 11: Whitman continued and Emily Dickinson, poetry selections (see lectures for assigned poems--note, some of the poems in the lectures are not in the new Anthology, but you can find these poems in the library or on the web).

WEEK 12: Emily Dickinson continued Samuel Clemens, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

SECOND TERM

WEEK 1: Samuel Clemens continued and Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July."

PART III - MODERN LITERATURE

WEEK 2: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-Paper" and Henry James, *Daisy Miller: A Study*.

WEEK 3: Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*.

WEEK 4: Kate Chopin continued and Robert Frost poetry ("Mending Wall," "After Apple-Picking," "The Road Not Taken," "Birches," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Desert Places," and "Design.")

WEEK 5: William Carlos Williams poetry ("The Red Wheelbarrow," "Portrait of a Lady," "Spring and All," "To Elsie," and "The Dance,") and Wallace Stevens poetry ("Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," "Anecdote of a Jar," "The Snow Man," "The Emperor of Ice Cream," "A High-Toned Old Christian Woman," and "Sunday Morning.")

WEEK 6: William Faulkner, *As I lay Dying*.

WEEK 7: Faulkner continued and Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*.

PART IV - CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

WEEK 8: Ellison continued and Sylvia Plath poetry ("Daddy," "Lady Lazarus," and "Ariel.")

WEEK 9: Plath continued and Allen Ginsberg, "Howl."

WEEK 10: Toni Morrison, *Beloved*.

WEEK 11: Morrison continued and Don DeLillo *White Noise*.

WEEK 12: DeLillo continued.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.