

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 2308E-650 -- AMERICAN LITERATURE SURVEY -- ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR: John Kelly – jkelly1@uwo.ca

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.

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

Prerequisite(s): 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.

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 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.

EVALUATION:

- Study question = 10% (3 pages / 750 words)
- Essay # 1 = 15% (6 pages / 1500 words)
- Essay # 2 = 15% (6 pages / 1500 words)

- Essay # 3 = 25% (8 pages / 2000 words) -- research paper
- Final Exam = 35%

COURSE WORK AND EXAM

STUDENTS MUST PASS THE COURSE WORK AND THE EXAM TO PASS THE COURSE.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Essays submitted late will receive a penalty of 1% per day, including weekends.

PLAGIARISM

There is **ZERO** tolerance for plagiarism in this course.

Please read the official University of Western Ontario notice below. A first offence will result in a mark of **zero** on the assignment, and the Department of English as well as your Faculty will be notified (this is the minimum penalty); a second, or very blatant, offence will result in **failure** of the course and debarment from all further Department of English courses. The Department of English also takes seriously internal plagiarism; you should be aware that the department keeps a database of all internet essay sites. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor or the English Undergraduate Office.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Academic accommodation:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out at:

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

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