

Department of English & Writing Studies

American Literature Survey
English 2308E (650)
Summer 2016

Instructor: John Kelly

Antirequisites

English 2341E, 2342F/G, 2343F/G, 2344E, 2345F/G, 2346F/G, and 3664E.

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.

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:

By the end of the academic year, successful students will be able to:

- 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:**

1. DeLillo, Don. *White Noise*. Penguin Books.
2. Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Vintage International. Random House.
3. Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*. Norton Critical Edition.
4. Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Plume.
5. 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%

ESSAY # 1: The first essay requires students to respond to the following topic: It can be argued that it is possible to sort major writers from the Puritan period to the late nineteenth century into two groups: those who advance particular doctrines and systems of thought, and those who question or critique those doctrines or who suspect any systematic or totalizing view of the world. Discuss this conflict between those who advance systems of thought and those who question totalizing views of the world.

ESSAY # 2: The essay questions and the due date will be posted on the course web site.

ESSAY # 3: The essay questions and the due date will be posted on the course web site.

Course Work and Exam:

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.

Submitting Assignments:

Submit your essays via the Web drop off box for the course, or if you have difficulties email your paper to my UWO address.

Late Assignments:

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

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.