

## Syllabus for LIT-3020

# ADVANCED AMERICAN LITERATURE II

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This upper-level course is an in-depth study of American literature beginning with the regional realism of the late 19th century and ending with the literature of the late 20th century and the continuing search for identity in literature today. Well-known writers are included as well as significant writers who are less often studied. The course involves analysis of texts and synthesis of readings as well as a significant amount of writing. Students complete a major presentation as a final project.

## COURSE TOPICS

- The Realist movement in American Literature
- Naturalism
- Literature produced by immigrants
- Modernism
- The Harlem Renaissance
- The variety of voices in American Literature
- The mid-twentieth century in American Literature
- Postmodernism

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- CO 1** Interpret primary texts from American literature that have shaped or reflected American culture from 1865 to the present.
- CO 2** Analyze characters, literary styles, and themes, and compare and contrast significant texts and ideas in the covered works of American literature.
- CO 3** Synthesize knowledge of and response to literature with an understanding of historical events as well as personal insight.
- CO 4** Explore the questions, issues, and controversies present in American literature since 1865, analyzing how they have evolved over time and connect to the lives and identities of people today.

- CO 5** Compose extended analyses of the works read, synthesizing material, ideas, and concepts from scholarly sources.

## COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents.

### Required Textbook

- Berke, Amy, et al. [\*Writing the Nation: A Concise Introduction to American Literature 1865 to Present\*](#). University System of Georgia, University Press of Georgia, 2015. Licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).

**ISBN-13: 978-1940771342**

## COURSE STRUCTURE

**Advanced American Literature** is a three-credit online course, consisting of six modules. Modules include learning objectives, study materials, online discussions, PowerPoint presentations, and written activities. The course requires you to complete three written assignments, two PowerPoint presentations, two final project assignments and a final major presentation. You are also required to participate in ten graded online discussions and an ungraded “Introductions” forum. Each week in the semester begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Introduction and Realism**  
Course objectives covered in this module: CO , CO 2, CO 3, CO 5
- **Module 2: Diverse Voices**  
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 3: Modernism**  
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 5
- **Module 4: Mid-Century Poetry and Drama**  
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 5: Mid-Century Prose**  
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 6: Postmodernism**

Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments, complete two PowerPoint presentations and complete all assignments for the final project. See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

### **Promoting Originality**

One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



### ***Discussion Forums***

You are required to complete **ten** discussion forums. The discussion forums are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



### ***Written Assignments***

You are required to complete **three** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



### ***PowerPoint Presentation on Diverse Writers***

You are required to complete **one** powerpoint presentation on diverse writers. The powerpoint presentation on diverse writers is on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



### ***PowerPoint Presentation on Confessional Poets***

You are required to complete **one** powerpoint presentation on confessional poets. The powerpoint presentation on confessional poets is on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



### ***Final Project***

This final project requires students to assess how the texts of writers from different time periods

addressed or incorporated one of the following: depictions of the American family, outsiders, challenging mainstream society, individualism vs. group identity, or women in American society. Students will be required to complete two final project assignments and a final presentation to complete the final project.

## GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (10)**—20%
- **Written assignments (3)**—30%
- **PowerPoint Presentation on Diverse Writers** —5%
- **PowerPoint Presentation on Confessional Poets**—5%
- **Final Project**
  - Initial Assignment—10%
  - Second Assignment—10%
  - Final Presentation —20%

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

|    |          |    |            |
|----|----------|----|------------|
| A  | = 93–100 | C+ | = 78–79    |
| A– | = 90–92  | C  | = 73–77    |
| B+ | = 88–89  | C– | = 70–72    |
| B  | = 83–87  | D  | = 60–69    |
| B– | = 80–82  | F  | = Below 60 |

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

### First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read the entire Syllabus carefully, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.

- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

### **Study Tips**

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final project.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

### **Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students**

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process—not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

## **COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

## **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) webpage and questions can be sent to [ADA@tesu.edu](mailto:ADA@tesu.edu).

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)