



ENG0000 - Survey of American Literature
Semester, 20__

Professor Name: Dr. Shannon McKeehen, aka “Dr. Mac”

Office Hours: Mon/Weds: 12:30pm - 2:00pm, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Tues/Thurs: 12:30pm - 1:45pm

Fri: noon - 3:00pm

And by appointment: Just send me an email!

Office Location: Reichard House, Second Floor

Email Address: McKeehenSR@tiffin.edu

Class Meeting: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, Room 2, St Marys

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the major themes, movements, and figures in American literature from the early colonial period to the present. We will examine how such literature has shaped, and been shaped by, American cultural, social, and historical contexts. Throughout the semester, we will read a selection of works by authors of diverse backgrounds and experiences. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, textual analysis, and the development of writing skills. By the end of the course, students will have developed a deeper understanding of how American literature reflects and responds to the evolving identity of the nation.

Course Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of key American literary movements (e.g., Puritanism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, Modernism, Postmodernism).
- Analyze works of literature in relation to their historical and cultural contexts.
- Enhance reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through class discussions, assignments, and essays.
- Explore the diverse voices in American literature, with attention to race, class, gender, and identity.

Required Texts:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. 1* (Colonial through Romantic)
- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. 2* (Realism through Contemporary)
- Selected readings available via Moodle (e.g., short stories, essays, poetry)

Course Requirements & Grading:

- Class Participation (**50 points**): Active engagement in class discussions and activities is essential. Participation will be evaluated based on your contribution to discussions, preparedness, and respect for diverse viewpoints.
- Short Writing Assignments (**15 points each**): Three 1.5-2 page (double-spaced) essays focused on specific themes or texts discussed in class.
- Midterm Exam (**50 points**): A combination of short-answer and essay questions covering material from the first half of the course.
- Final Paper (**100 points**): A 6-8 page analytical essay on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor, due at the end of the semester.
- Final Exam (**55 points**): A cumulative exam covering all readings and concepts discussed in class.

*Total points=***300 points**

Grade	Number of Points Earned
A	270-300
B	240-269
C	210-239
D	180-209
F	Below 179

Instructor's Expectations

Preparation and Active Class Participation: It is my expectation that you come to class and respect your peers and me. This classroom does not tolerate hate speech of any kind and is an inclusive classroom. If discrimination or derogatory terms are used toward another student, it will be reported and you will be removed from the course. Racism is also not tolerated in this classroom, will be reported, and you will be removed from the class. When you come to class, I expect you to be engaged in the learning process. Engagement can take on many forms, all of them respectful, and accounted for in the Student Conduct portion of your grade. Disrespectful behavior that may also resort to missing points includes sleeping in class, talking on cell phones, talking with peers during lessons, and other disruptive behaviors aside from the discriminatory practices outlined above.

Attendance: If an athlete misses a class due to practice, conditioning, or a game, it is understood that the athlete is responsible for *all* of the work covered in that class (lecture notes, readings, and any additional information distributed in class). The appropriate information from the Athletic Director or coach must be submitted to the professor *prior* to missing class due to an athletic event. Failure to do so is against athletic policy. Please follow all policies as written in the current Student Handbook. All attendance will be recorded in Self-service. My general attendance policy is as follows: all students regardless of status (athlete or nonathlete) need to communicate whether they will be absent or tardy, when possible, via email to the professor. If communication is not achieved, and/or a student is consistently absent, four unexcused absences in this writing-intensive course

result in my submitting an Early Alert; five unexcused absences can likely result in either a recommendation for Administrative Withdrawal, given the amount of content that is missed, or, barring that action, possible Failure from the course.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism or recycling papers you wrote in another class without permission is not tolerated. College writing is about engaging in the writing process and sharpening your skills. Stealing content, or resorting to “double dipping” without demonstrating in your classes what you have learned in them, will not get you very far in life, and this course aims to prepare you for the real world.

Late Work Policy: If you need an extension on an assignment, you must give me a minimum of 12 hours’ notice prior to the due date, excluding extenuating circumstances. No extension will be granted without the proper notice.

Communication: If you do not check your Tiffin University email, I am not responsible for any important messages you might miss. Check before class for any announcements, such as emergency cancellations, etc. I communicate solely through email with students, and you are expected to check your email *at minimum* every 24 hours, preferably more frequently than that.

Technology in the Classroom: Technology that you would use for typing and researching is recommended for this course. We partake in journal writing weekly and often start the writing processes in class. Phones are welcome, but I am not responsible if you choose to scroll through social media instead of paying attention. If you choose to be on your phone instead of being engaged in the classroom, it is your responsibility.

Where to Find Technical Support: For Moodle support, either email moodlesupport@tiffin.edu or call the 24/7 Technical Support Call Center at 855-664-1200 (3430, Option 2, from on-campus). For non-Moodle support, contact the Tiffin University ITS helpdesk at the number above or submit a support ticket at <https://www.tiffin.edu/its/help>.

University Policies

Email Communication: As a student at Tiffin University, you are expected to use your Tiffin email account for all communication with your professor. If you fail to check your Tiffin email account, you may be missing information regarding this course, and you will be held responsible for this.

Classroom Lecture Capture

Notice of video recording and permissible use.

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and may be available to students in the course for viewing remotely after each session. Except for captured original student work within the video, course videos belong to your instructor.

Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos.

All recorded lectures, presentations, and class discussions are for viewing by members of this class section only. Students who have access to authorized recorded lectures may use such recordings **ONLY** for personal or group study. Downloading, recording, or sharing any lecture capture video or

portions of a lecture capture video with anyone not enrolled in this class section is not permissible and subject to the [Student Conduct Policy](#), [Technology Acceptable Use Policy](#) and/or including other punishments up to dismissal from the university. Students violating these rules will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action and possible legal action.

Viewing Lecture Capture Videos does not replace class attendance.

Lecture Capture Videos are intended to be temporary supplements to the core educational experience and are not considered to be inherent to the delivery of the course learning outcomes. These recordings are not meant to replace the classroom experience and may not be duplicated or redistributed without appropriate consent. Recordings do not replace attendance or in-person requirements of an instructor (see attendance policy in this document) and should be used to review class content and/or to supplement excused absences.

Your likeness will not be used outside of this class without your consent.

If Tiffin University or your professor plan to utilize recorded lectures for educational purposes beyond this class you will be notified of the nature of intended use and your *written consent will be required*. Video Capture usage data may be viewed by the instructor or may be collected for Quality Improvement/Educational Outcomes Assessment and data to be reported in aggregated non-identifying ways.

Attendance by Athletes: Athletes may not miss a class for practice in any sport. If an athlete misses a class due to a game, it is completely understood that the athlete is responsible for all the work covered in that class (to include lecture notes, readings and any additional information distributed in class). The appropriate information from the Athletic Director or coach must be submitted to the professor prior to missing class due to an athletic event. Failure to do so is against athletic policy. Please follow all policies as written in the current Student Handbook.

Academic Honesty Statement: Academic institutions have the responsibility to promote and instill the highest standards of ethics among students. Therefore, Tiffin University places the highest value on academic honesty. Any act of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, committed by a student may be penalized with an “F” for the assignment or for the course in question. If warranted, acts of academic dishonesty, in some cases, may also attract more severe sanctions, such as suspension or dismissal from the university. Please refer to the current Academic Bulletin for further information.

University Statement on Artificial Intelligence: We, the faculty, staff, and administration of Tiffin University will continue to transform lives through education. Generative AI tools (GAITs) have fundamentally changed how we must execute our mission to educate students by linking knowledge to professional practice. We believe that AI will rapidly alter almost every aspect of work and education over the coming decades, and that the most important thing we can do for students is to ensure they graduate with the ability to think critically, demonstrate creativity, and evaluate information. Tiffin University will embrace Generative AI Tools (GAITs) as teaching tools and resources for student learning based on the following guideposts:

- AI can enhance the global competencies and 21st century skills of our students
- AI can be used as a tool that hones students’ higher order thinking skills
- AI can be a catalyst for reexamining the relevance, authenticity, and effectiveness
- of our assignments and assessments

- AI can support and strengthen students' communication in academic settings
- Tiffin University has an obligation to prepare students for the ethical and legal use of AI in their professional, academic, and personal lives.

FERPA

This institution is covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended, which is designed to protect the student's rights with regard to educational records maintained by the institution. Under this Act, a student has the following rights:

- The right to inspect and review educational records maintained by the institution that pertain to the student;
- The right to challenge the content of records on the grounds that they are inaccurate, misleading or a violation of privacy or other rights; and
- The right to control disclosures from the educational records with certain exceptions.

Tiffin University, in accordance with FERPA, has designated the following categories of information about students as public or directory information: name, address, email address, telephone numbers (home and work), major, participation in officially-recognized activities, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received (including honors), and most recent previous educational institution attended. Any student has the right to have directory information withheld from the public by indicating so on the admission application or by notifying the Office of Registration and Records in writing. A written policy detailing how Tiffin University will comply with the provisions of the Act is on file in the Office of Registration and Records. Students also have the right to file written complaints with The Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605, regarding alleged violations of the Act.

From the Office of Equity, Access, and Opportunity

Nondiscrimination Policy: Tiffin University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all students, applicants for admission, and is committed in policy and practice to ensuring equal access to educational opportunities for all regardless of the person's race, religion, personal appearance, color, sex, pregnancy, political affiliation, social-economic class, place of business, residence, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin (including ancestry), citizenship status, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, veteran or military status (including special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran, or recently separated veteran), predisposing genetic characteristics, domestic violence victim status or any other protected category under applicable local, state or federal law. The Tiffin University faculty are committed to creating a safe learning environment for all members of our community, free from discrimination. Please note that Tiffin University's Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Nondiscrimination Policy designates all faculty members, including teaching assistants, as "Mandated Reporters." Under this policy, all "Mandated Reporters" must report all disclosures of possible policy violations including but not limited to discriminatory and sexual harassment to Tiffin University's Title IX Coordinator. Following a report, the Title IX Coordinator will reach out to the impacted person(s) to provide resources, support, and information. It is not required for the impacted person to respond to the Title IX Coordinator; however, no response may limit the ability for Tiffin University to provide resources and remedies. Reports should be submitted to Javier Solorzano Parada, Title IX Coordinator at solorzanoparadaj@tiffin.edu or (419) 448-3421. You can also file an online report by visiting the EAO web

page: <https://www.tiffin.edu/about/title-ix/>. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the EAO Advocate at advocacy@tiffin.edu. For more information regarding Tiffin University's Title IX procedures, how to report an incident, or about support measures, please visit <https://www.tiffin.edu/about/title-ix/>.

Disability Services: The Office of Disability Services supports the institutional commitment to diversity by providing educational opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you need reasonable accommodations due to a documented disability, contact Juliene Huston, Coordinator for Disability Services at hustonjr@tiffin.edu or 419-448-3021.

Veterans: The Veteran and Military Resource Center assists veterans, active Military, and spouses of current service members in utilizing their education benefits. VMRC provides information regarding benefit processes and procedures, as well as support in navigating the transition from military to academic life by facilitating connections with the appropriate support services on campus. Contact Cassie Bump, at (567) 268-6053 or at Bumpcl@tiffin.edu. Veteran and Military Resource Center can be found at <http://www.tiffin.edu/va>.

Reading Schedule: For each class, please complete the readings assigned for that day. Be prepared for in-class discussions and writing assignments based on the material. Additional readings may be provided on Moodle as needed.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to American Literature

- Monday: Course overview; Introduction to literary analysis and close reading
- Wednesday: Early American Literature – Native American oral traditions; "The Iroquois Creation Story" (Anthology, p. 23-30)

Week 2: Colonial and Puritan Literature

- Monday: William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation (Anthology, p. 31-50)
- Wednesday: Anne Bradstreet, "The Tenth Muse" and Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (Anthology, p. 51-80). Go over directions for Short Writing Assignments.

Week 3: The American Enlightenment

- Monday: Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography (Anthology, p. 91-110)
- Wednesday: Thomas Paine, Common Sense and excerpts from The Crisis (Anthology, p. 125-150)

Week 4: Romanticism and Transcendentalism

- Monday: Washington Irving, Rip Van Winkle (Anthology, p. 191-220)
- Wednesday: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance" (Anthology, p. 220-240)
- Short Writing Assignment #1 Due Friday on Moodle!

Week 5: The American Gothic

- Monday: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Fall of the House of Usher" (Anthology, p. 350-380)
- Wednesday: Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (Chapters 1-8, Moodle)

Week 6: The American Renaissance

- Monday: Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (Chapters 1-9, Moodle)
- Wednesday: Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (Chapters on Moodle); Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (Chapters on Moodle)

Week 7: Realism and Naturalism

- Monday: Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (Selections, p. 650-680)
- Wednesday: Emily Dickinson, *Selected Poems* (Anthology, p. 700-740)

Week 8: Midterm Exam Week

- Monday: Review for midterm exam
- Wednesday: Midterm Exam
- Short Writing Assignment #2 Due Friday on Moodle!

Week 9: The Gilded Age and Early 20th Century

- Monday: Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Chapters 1-5)
- Wednesday: Marietta Holley, *The Lament of the Mormon's Wife* (Moodle)

Week 10: Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance

- Monday: F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters 1-4)
- Wednesday: Langston Hughes, *Selected Poems* (Anthology, p. 1000-1030)

Week 11: The Lost Generation and Postwar American Literature

- Monday: Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (Chapters 1-5)
- Wednesday: William Faulkner, *A Rose for Emily* and *As I Lay Dying* (Selections)

Week 12: Mid-20th Century Voices

- Monday: Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (Chapters 1-6)
- Wednesday: Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"

Week 13: Postmodernism and Contemporary Literature

- Monday: Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (Chapters 1-6)
- Wednesday: Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (Selections)
- Short Writing Assignment #3 Due Friday on Moodle!

Week 14: American Literature and the Digital Age

- Monday: Don DeLillo, White Noise (Chapters 1-6)
- Wednesday: Online Discussion on Social Media and the Digital Age: Readings from The Medium is the Message by Marshall McLuhan

Week 15: Review and Final Paper Preparation

- Monday: Review for final exam
- Wednesday: Final Paper Workshops; Peer Review Session

Week 16: Final Exam Week

- Monday: No class – study day
- Wednesday: Final Exam (Comprehensive)

Final papers due this Friday on Moodle!