AMERICAN LITERATURE II

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the major works of the American writers of the United States from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century. The emphasis is on the literary movement called Realism and the societal factors that contributed to that movement, such as the Civil War and the Reconstruction period, increased industrialization, and the influences of Sigmund Freud and Charles Darwin. In addition, there will be a discussion of the literary techniques that writers employ and the reading strategies necessary to understand and enjoy literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss and analyze the works read to demonstrate understanding of their significance in their own time period and to extrapolate from that their significance to readers in the twenty-first century.
2. Discuss and analyze analyze attitudes towards issues of gender, race, and economic class as they are expressed by the selected authors and trace the development of contemporary attitudes from then to now.
3. Discuss and analyze the literary techniques available to writers--and the reading strategies available to readers--that foster an understanding and enjoyment of literature.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the University's textbook supplier.

Required Textbook

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* by Mark Twain, (New York: Puffin Classics, 2008). **ISBN-13: 978-0142437179**

- *Daisy Miller,* by Henry James (New York: Dover, 1995).
  ISBN-13: 978-0486287737

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (New York: Scribner, 1999).
  ISBN-13: 978-0743273565

- *The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories,* by Ernest Hemingway (New York: Scribner, 1995).
  ISBN-13: 978-0684804446

- *Beloved,* by Toni Morrison (New York: Vintage, 2004).
  ISBN-13: 978-1400033416

COURSE STRUCTURE

American Literature II is a three-credit online course, consisting of **five** modules. Modules include study materials and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

- **Module 2: Daisy Miller**

- **Module 3: The Great Gatsby**

- **Module 4: The Snows of Kilimanjaro**

- **Module 5: Beloved**

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments, take a proctored online midterm examination, and complete a final project. See below for more details.

Consult the Course Calendar for activity 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*

American Literature II has **five** graded online discussions, each focusing on a different subject. There is also an ungraded but required discussion in Module 1 titled "Introductions." All class discussions take place on the class Discussion Board.

Communication among fellow students and with the mentor is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online discussions involves two distinct activities: an initial response to a posted question (discussion thread) and subsequent comments on classmates' responses. Meaningful participation is relevant to the content, adds value, and advances the discussion. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-adding participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a classmate, the reading, or your mentor, state ***and support*** your agreement or disagreement. You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation. Responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, professional, and respectful.

📋 *Written Assignments*

American Literature II has *five* writing assignments. Many students find it helpful to read over the activity questions for a module before beginning the reading for the module.

Take the time to familiarize yourself with the Activity Modules area of the course Web site, and read through the written activity questions before you begin each lesson. Your answers to the activity questions should be well developed and convey your understanding of the course materials. Formulate responses in your own words (do not merely copy answers from your reading materials), citing text materials where appropriate and in an appropriate manner.

Tone, Diction, and Style

Your written assignments should be approached in a quite different way from your responses to the online discussion topics. Written assignments should be formal academic papers. This means, among other things, that you should write in third person, avoid informal diction or spelling, avoid contractions, proofread carefully, and use MLA-style parenthetical documentation to identify your sources. The online discussions, on the other hand, much like live classroom discussions, are meant to be a more informal give-and-take. You may use first person (stating, for example, "I liked," "What struck me," etc.). Your discussion board responses will be similar to a conversation and may include contractions and less formal diction. Remember however, that while you may be somewhat informal, you should still write in Standard English and proofread your post before hitting "Submit."

You will be asked to identify and read outside commentary and criticism to complete the assignments. You need not necessarily agree with the critic, but if you disagree you should state your case for an alternative interpretation. Of course, you may also use the commentary for support. It is important that you document your sources using MLA style.

📋 *Midterm Examination*

This course requires you to take a proctored online midterm examination. The midterm is a closed-book, proctored exam. It is two hours long and covers material in Modules 1 through 3. It consists of three essay questions on Twain, James, and Fitzgerald.

For the midterm, you are required to use the University's [Online Proctor Service](#) (OPS). Please refer to the "Examinations and Proctors" section of the Online Student Handbook (see [Student Handbooks](#) in the General Information area of the course website) for further information about scheduling and taking online exams and for all exam policies and procedures. You are strongly advised to schedule your exam within the first week of the semester.

Statement about Cheating

You are on your honor not to cheat during an exam. Cheating means:

- Looking up any answer or part of an answer in an unauthorized textbook or on the Internet, or using any other source to find an answer.
- Copying and pasting or, in any way copying responses or parts of responses from any other source into your exams. This includes but is not limited to copying and pasting from other documents or spreadsheets, whether written by yourself or anyone else.
- Plagiarizing answers.
- Asking anyone else to assist you by whatever means available while you take an exam.
- Copying any part of an exam to share with other students.
- Telling your mentor that you need another attempt at an exam because your connection to the Internet was interrupted when that is not true.

If there is evidence that you have cheated or plagiarized in an exam, the exam will be declared invalid, and you will fail the course.

📋 *Final Project*

There is no final proctored examination in this course. A 12- to 15-page paper, described in fully in the Final Project area of the course site, acts as your final assessment and is worth 30 percent of your final grade. You must complete the paper and submit it to your mentor via Blackboard by the last day of the semester. Your paper will explore how all five authors read in this course may, or may not, be viewed as part of the Realistic Movement.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (6)**—10 percent
- **Written assignments (5)**—40 percent
- **Midterm exam (proctored online, modules 1-5)**—20 percent
- **Final project**—30 percent

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, etc.).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

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

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.

- Take the time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course, how to schedule exams, and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.

- Arrange to take your examinations by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the Online Student Handbook.

- 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 activities 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 Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and scheduling and taking examinations.

- 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.

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](#)