Syllabus for LIT-3010

Advanced American Literature

Course Description

This upper-level course is an in-depth study of American literature beginning with Native American trickster tales and the literature of the early explorers and settlers and ending with works that explore issues of race and freedom during and after the time of the American Civil War. 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 write a documented research paper as a final project.

Topics

- Native American and European encounters
- The Puritan mindset
- National and individual identities
- Race and slavery
- American Romanticism

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

CO 1 Interpret primary texts from American literature that have shaped or reflected American culture from early Native American oral literature to works written during and just after the American Civil War.

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CO 2 Analyze characters, literary styles, and themes in the works covered.

CO 3 Compare and contrast significant texts and ideas.

CO 4 Explore the questions, issues, and controversies present in American literature through 1865, evaluating how they have evolved over time.

CO 5 Relate these works of literature, including their themes and characters, to the lives and identities of the current population of the United States.

CO 6 Analyze works of American literature, synthesizing material, ideas, and concepts from scholarly sources.

CO 7 Synthesize readings and ideas raised by the readings, including the historical, political, and social background of the time period while incorporating critical insight from scholarly sources.

Study 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. Please visit the following website to purchase course materials: University's textbook supplier.

Required Textbook(s)

- Kurant, Wendy. *Becoming America: An Exploration of American Literature from Precolonial to Post-Revolution*. English Open Textbooks, 2019.
  Licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.
  ISBN: 978-1940771465
  Estimated Cost: (Free)

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Course Structure

Advanced American Literature is a 3-credit, online course consisting of 6 modules.The course requires you to complete five written assignments and one final paper. The final paper for this course is a 12- to 15-page paper focusing on how six writers covered in the course address issues of religion (in particular Puritanism), economics, gender, and race. These themes will be seen throughout the course and you will be expected to become familiar with how these themes recur throughout the period studied. You are required to participate in graded online discussions and an ungraded Introductions Forum. Each week in the semester begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Native Voices; European Explorers**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 6

- **Module 2: Colonial Voices: Virginia and New England**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5,CO 6

- **Module 3: National and Individual Identity**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6, CO 7

- **Module 4: Race and Slavery**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6, CO 7

- **Module 5: American Romanticism I**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 6

- **Module 6: American Romanticism II**
  Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5

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Assessment Methods

You are required to participate in the following for formal work in the course:

- Write online discussion forum posts
- Complete PowerPoint presentations
- Complete written assignments
- Finish a 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 Plagiarism Detection Tool Google document.

Discussion Forums

You are required to complete **11** discussion forums. The discussion forums are on a variety of topics based on the course modules.

PowerPoint Presentations

You are required to complete **2** PowerPoint presentations. The PowerPoint presentations are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

Written Assignments

You are required to complete **5** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

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Final Project

You will complete a paper of 3000 to 3750 words (12 to 15 pages, double-spaced). The final paper requires you to assess how the texts of writers from different time periods addressed, confronted, and critiqued one of the following topics: religion (in particular, Puritanism) economics (capitalism, “the work ethic”), gender, or race. To make sure you are staying on track with the final paper, you will select the theme early in the course and submit an abstract of the final paper. The final paper is due in the last week of the course. Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Grading and Evaluation

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **11 online discussions** are worth **20% of your final grade.**
- **2 online discussions** are worth **10% of your final grade.**
- **5 written assignments** are worth **40% of your final grade.**
- The **final paper** is worth **30% of your final grade.**
    - **Part 1: writer and theme selection** is **required but not graded.**
    - **Part 2: abstract** is **required but not graded.**
    - **Part 3: comprehensive assessment** is worth **30% of your final grade.**

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** is **93 to 100**
- **A minus** is **90 to 92**
- **B plus** is **88 to 89**
- **B** is **83 to 87**
- **B minus** is **80 to 82**
- **C plus** is **78 to 79**
- **C** is **73 to 77**
- **C minus** is **70 to 72**
- **D** is **60 to 69**
- **F** is **any grade below a 60**

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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 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 time to read the entire 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 examination(s) by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the 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 assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

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- 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 Accomodations

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990 and 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, including:

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- A student who is pregnant, postpartum, or parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A].
- Students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term or temporary illness.
- TESU students requesting academic accommodation for an injury.

Information can be found on the Office of Student Accessibility Services webpage.

Questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

Academic Policies

Familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies, including those related to the following list, to ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University:

- Academic integrity
- Course late submissions
- Extensions for the course
- 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

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