

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

ENGL 382

Name of Course:

American Literature After 1865

Catalog Description:

This course will: survey major trends and writers in American literature from the end of the Civil War to the present; examine the shift in the late 19th century to Romanticism to Realism and Naturalism and the 20th century experiments of Modernism and Post-Modernism; and explore how the alternative voices of Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants, and others intersect with these movements and offer other views of the definitions and uses of “American literature”.

Credit Hours:

4

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Prerequisites:

WR 121 and one 100-level ENGL course.

Learning Outcomes

The larger goal of this course is to provide a platform for you to think about the individual and collective writings of this era of literature and how they influence the larger study of identity, historical, social and political movements, and schools of artistic and creative expression in America. In this practice of interrogating literary works you will in turn gain confidence as academic writers by working through the stages of outlining, research, drafting, editing and revising.

As an aspect of these writing stages you will be routinely asked to defend your ideas and theories. These types of exchanges will foster broader discussion, inquiry and reflection, and will aid you in the academic writing process as a whole.

Included in these learning outcomes, by the end of this course you ideally will have achieved the following:

- Gained confidence in being able to analyze, discuss and write academically about this literary period, regardless of talent or experience, in a way that contributes to a broader and more diverse understanding.
- Learned to read literary examples from this era of study critically and analytically.
- Learned to use a diverse range of research methodologies that in turn aid and support your own ideas and theories.
- Learned to carefully proofread, edit and revise.

- Presented and responded to your best work in a reflective and thoughtful way.

Course Requirements

- Readings and Discussion
 - You will read samples of prose and supplemental academic work from this literary era on a weekly basis and be expected to be able to discuss each in class and in small groups. These opportunities will play an important role in helping to develop your understanding of these writers and contributors and prepare you for your own development of ideas and analysis in your more formal assignments.
- Informal Assignments
 - You will write brief informal assignments on a weekly basis that respond to readings, allow you a space to practice writing forms and models, or reflect on the larger academic writing process. These assignments will prepare you for writing your more formal assignments.
- Field Research
 - At certain times you may be asked to locate or provide outside or secondary materials to supplement or help better engage in discussion or an assignment. These often will take the form of enhancing your understanding of a subject matter through research or exploration, or to reinforce your use of certain facts or ideas.
- Formal Assignments
 - You will write two more formal assignments during this course, including complete first and final drafts with proper in-text and end citations. These assignments will allow you the space to showcase your competency in conducting research and developing original claims and ideas in developed academic papers.
- Reflective Essay
 - You will write a reflective essay at the conclusion of this course. This essay will provide an opportunity for you to share your writing development over the term, and allow you to demonstrate your best writing skills and craft. This essay will be submitted in lieu of a final exam.
- Canvas
 - For the purpose of this class all course material, including links to assignments, both formal and informal, secondary readings, homework, schedules and forms, will routinely be made accessible on the digital Canvas classroom system hosted by Eastern Oregon University.

Grading Policies

For each assignment you will be assessed on variety of expectations, including:

- Ability to demonstrate understanding of instructions or prompts
- Ability to analyze and critically address questions or prompts
- Ability to actively participate and contribute to class or group work
- Generating original and creative writing

- Submitting edited and polished writing

In order to meet these expectations, each assignment will include a list of instructions you should use as a helpful guide.

For your convenience grades will be made available on Canvas periodically over the term. You are encouraged to inquire about any assigned grades if you have questions or concerns. Please see the section on scheduling an office conference for further instructions.

Means of Assessment:

Categories	Percentage
Informal Assignments	25
Formal Assignments	30
Final Essay	20
Participation and Discussion	25

Grading System

Grade	Points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	60-69
F	0-59
INC	Incomplete
W	Withdrawal

Policies and Procedures

- Attendance
 - An ideal class is a community in which each student actively participates in discussions, small group activities and in class writing assignments. In order for this community to work it is imperative that you participate.
 - Due to instances where absences are unavoidable, I will allow four excused absences over the period of the course. The work missed will have to be made up, but you will receive credit. While I do not need to have a reason for these absences, in order for each to be issued you must notify me at least prior to when you expect to need an excused absence. Any absences outside of these four excused absences will be considered unexcused regardless of reason, and any work you submit will be deemed late and graded as such.
 - If other situations arise, and you have a need to address a significant, documented illness, family emergency, or other extreme personal affair that

affects all courses, please contact Student Services at 541-962-3536, or at saffairs@eou.edu to discuss your options.

- Participation
 - As a member of the classroom community each student is expected to participate in classroom discussion and activities. I will work to include each of you, and am always open to exploring ways whereby you feel most comfortable in participating in class.
 - Please note that as part of our writing community, each member of the class has the responsibility of encouraging respectful conversation and providing thoughtful feedback. Tolerance for different points of view and backgrounds is essential.
- Late Assignments
 - All coursework is due on the date posted. There will be certain instances when you will also be instructed to provide samples or copies of your work in class or online.
 - If an issue arises whereby you will be unable to meet the deadline, please contact me as soon as possible before that deadline so that we can discuss your options. I will make final decisions on a case-to-case basis. In all other cases I will deduct 10% from your original grade for each day the assignment is late.
- Revisions
 - Over the period of the course you will be allowed to revise one formal paper of your choosing. In order to initiate this revision process you must schedule a conference in order to discuss your original paper and any comments and feedback it received during assessment. At this appointment you will be offered strategies on how to improve the paper for resubmission. It is important to note that revising a paper does not necessarily mean you will receive a higher grade, but with diligent work and effort, such an outcome is likely.
 - Please feel free to discuss your papers and the possibility of revision at any point.

Brief Outline of Course:

During this course, you will be asked to closely analyze and develop academic research papers based on your understanding and synthesis of American Literature from the end of the Civil War to the present. This will include exploration of the shift from Romanticism to Realism and Naturalism and the later experiments of Modernism and Post-Modernism. You will also be considering emerging voices and studies of Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants, women and global influences that helped to further establish this canon. As you wrestle with these literary elements you will also read extensively, rely on robust discussion, respond to written prompts, practice the methodology of research, and generate and create drafts of academic writing.

By the conclusion of this course you will have acquired cumulative skills that demonstrate your ability to render original and meaningful ideas through academic writing. This will not only reflect your authority as writers, but also your ability to present your ideas and theories about the writers from this important era in American Literature.

General Education Category and Outcomes:

N/A

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

- Students will produce at least 5,000 words (including drafts, in-class writing, informal papers, and polished papers); 2,000 words of this total should be in polished papers which students have revised after receiving feedback and criticism.
- Students will practice the forms of writing and reflect upon the nature of the writing used by graduates and professionals in the discipline the course represents.
- Students will write at least one paper integrating information from more than one source, employing the appropriate documentation style for the discipline represented by the course.
- Students will draft, revise, and edit their formal written work.
- Students will seek assistance from a Writing Tutor in the Writing Lab when needed and when referred by the instructor.

Students must complete all UWR writing-intensive courses with a C- or better.

Writing Center Statement:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Classroom Decorum:

[Insert text here]

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.