

**College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English and Modern Languages
Fall 2017
ENGL 2326-American Literature**

Mrs. Cheryl Johnson – Instructor

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Office Hours: TR – 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Required Course Materials

Norton Anthology of American Literature (Eighth Edition—Shorter), Ed. Baym et al.

4 Blue Books, 8.5X 11 only – These must be purchased and turned in all at once. Write your name on all 4 books and turn in to me by due date designated on Blackboard.

Course Description and Requirements

A minimum of six to ten major works of American literature, including both the 19th and 20th centuries. Prerequisites: ENGL-1301 and either ENGL-1302 or 1374; or 1360 and 1361 Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. The department recommends a C or better in those pre-requisites. Some majors require a C or better.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES SOPHOMORE LITERATURE COURES

Communication:

1. **Writing:** Students will apply the writing skills in English 1301 and 1302 (clear introductions, main body paragraphs, conventional use of grammar and style) to writing about literature.
 - a. Using their reading and/or research, students will compose critical/analytical essays with a clear thesis and introduction.
 - b. Using their reading and/or research, students will compose critical/analytical essays with organized supporting paragraphs.
 - c. Students will use the standard conventions of English grammar and punctuation and write clear and efficient sentences.
 - d. Students will maintain a style and persona appropriate for a particular purpose and audience
2. **Oral or visual communication:** Students will present clear, salient, and supported oral/visual speeches/demonstrations. And/or students will discuss group or class topics.

Critical Thinking

Through essays, students will analyze literary works.

Social Responsibility

Outcome: In written responses (preferably complete essays), presentations, discussions (online or face to face) students will illustrate an understanding of social, cultural, historical, scientific or technological forces that stimulated literature in one or more literary movements or periods.

Personal Responsibility

Outcome: In written responses (preferably complete essays), presentations, discussions (online or face to face), and potentially in the same response used to measure “social responsibility,” students will illustrate an understanding of the complexities of personal choice or the role of the individual within his or her social and cultural environment—as evidenced in at least one literary work.

Dropping the Course

If you find that you must drop the course, please consult the course modules or the Lamar University academic calendar for the exact dates.

- **Census Date/12th Class Day:** Students may drop or withdraw without consulting with their Instructor, Department Chair or the Records Office. The Six Drop Rule does not apply to students who drop before 5:00 p.m.
- **Dropping a Course Without Academic Penalty:** A specific date is assigned midway through the semester for drops without academic penalty, which means that you may drop the course and receive a “Q” (Six Drop Rule applies). This date can be found on the Lamar website or within the course itself.
- **Dropping the Course With Academic Penalty:** This date later in the semester is the last day to drop or withdraw with academic penalty. Student must be passing the course at the time of the requested drop in order to receive a Q. The drop form, including all required signatures, must arrive in the Records Office no later than 4:00p.m. on the scheduled date (Six Drop Rule applies). This date can be found on the Lamar website or within the course itself.

***Note:** Any student seeking to drop after the last drop date with academic penalty must submit a fairly thorough written explanation, including supporting documents if applicable, of the extenuating circumstances for which the action is being requested. The explanation must be shared with and approved by the Instructor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the college before the drop form will be sent to the Senior Associate Provost for a final review and decision.

Disability Resource Center Accommodation Statement:

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communications building room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

For students:

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at [409-880-8347](tel:409-880-8347) or drc@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the

DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

• If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at:

<http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>. Following are procedures for the first two:

Severe Weather:

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
- Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence/Active Shooter (CADD):

- **CALL** - 8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
- **AVOID**- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY**- Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
- **DEFEND**- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Academic Honesty

Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The *Lamar University Student Handbook* clearly reads: “Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on an examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of source materials.” One aspect of the *Handbook*’s definition of cheating includes “purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.” Plagiarism is defined as “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or ideas into one’s own and submitted for credit.” Faculty members in the College of arts and Sciences investigate all cases of suspected plagiarism. If you plagiarize or cheat, you will fail this course.

Attendance Policy

This course focuses heavily on class discussion, group work, and writing workshops. Therefore, class attendance is expected and required. Only four absences are allowed. Because tardiness is disruptive to both the instructor and the other students, two tardies are equivalent to one absence. Exceeding the required number of absences will result in 5 points per absence being deducted from the student's final grade, or as stated above, being dropped from the course. This is a generous policy, so choose your absences wisely. Dedicated students attend class, so my attendance policy more than allows for emergencies and other unexpected events that may cause you to miss class. **Please note that excused absences are only those absences that are related to University events and are endorsed by a University advisor.**

Making Up Assignments

In-class assignments, group work, literature logs, and exams will not be allowed to be made up. In extreme circumstances, you may petition the instructor to see if making up the work will be allowed, but this is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

LULearn/Blackboard

Blackboard is your lifeline to this class, so you must become familiar with it. **It is your detailed syllabus.** All of your assignments are posted on Blackboard. Access to extra course readings can only be found on Blackboard. You can keep up with your grades on Blackboard and communicate with me and your peers through Blackboard. If you have not already become familiar with Blackboard, you will see that it is really quite simple, and you should not have any problems navigating your way through it. Your Blackboard password is the same as your Lamar email password. Should you need assistance of any kind, you must obtain it from the Blackboard support line, **880-7849, or 880-2222.** Having problems with Blackboard is not an excuse for not having work submitted on time or not knowing about a quiz or any other assignment. You will find, however, that Blackboard works best on web browsers like Firefox and Chrome, and do not work as well on Internet Explorer, so that might be your first problem solved!

Use of Electronic Devices

Due to the fact that you have many handouts that will need to be accessed during class, you may bring a laptop, netbook, Ipad, or some other electronic tablet with you to class to use for the sole purpose of accessing these items and taking notes. **Smart phones may not be used in any way in class!**

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be based on a percentage value for points earned from the following:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage Value</u>
4 Exams - 100 points each	55%
Literature Logs/Misc. Assign.	10%
Bibliography/Outline	10%
Research Paper	15%
Visual Presentation	10%

Final grades will be averaged and assigned based on the following scale. A = 90% –100%; B = 80% -89%; C = 70% -79%; D = 60% -69%; F=59% and below

Course Schedule

The following is a general overview of the semester. As stated earlier, you will find a more detailed course schedule on Blackboard. This course schedule is subject to change, but if it is changed, it will be done in plenty of time. You should always stay about a week ahead so you know what to expect.

Week 1: Course Overview; Intro to American Literature

Weeks 2-4: Colonial Literature; Research

Week 5: Exam 1; Civil War and Literature; Phyllis Wheatley

Week 6: Harriet Beecher Stowe and Uncle Tom's Cabin

Week 7: Ambrose Bierce; Walt Whitman

Week 8: Exam 2; Hawthorne

Week 9: Poe

Week 10: Dickinson; Thoreau

Week 11: Exam 3; Research Paper Due

Weeks 12-13: Frost; Hughes; Plath; Sexton; Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Week 14: Exam 4; Multi-Genre Research Projects

Week 15: Multi-Genre Research Projects