

ENGL 3220: AMERICAN LITERATURE II
Spring 2009 Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of American Literature from the Civil War through the present. Readings will include both canonical and non-canonical works. Prerequisites: ENGL 2200 or 2240, and ENGL 2600.

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION:

TR 10:00-11:20 a.m. BC 202

INSTRUCTOR:

Kyle Bishop	Office:	BC 304A
	Office Hours:	MWF 10-11, MW 1-2, TR 3-4, or by appointment
	Telephone:	586-7804
	E-mail:	bishopk@suu.edu
	Web Site:	< www.suu.edu/faculty/bishopk >

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As a survey of 150 years of American literary production and history, this course will help students to develop their abilities to analyze, interpret, contextualize, and discuss the literary elements of American prose fiction and poetry. They will read a variety of foundational, canonical, and non-canonical texts—including short fiction, novels, and verse poetry—and respond to those cultural objects through response journals, class discussion, group presentations, and the composition of a critical and research-based term paper. Further assessment will be accomplished through quizzes and three in-class unit exams (which will include passage identification and short essay questions).

TEXTS:

Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. C. 7th ed. New York: Norton, 2007.

---. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. D. 7th ed. New York: Norton, 2007.

---. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. E. 7th ed. New York: Norton, 2007.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction, 1995.

Pynchon, Thomas. *The Crying of Lot 49*. New York: Perennial Classics, 1999.

SUPPLIES:

A notebook or three-ring binder with ruled paper for in-class writing and note taking
Photocopying and printing expenses for research, drafts, and assignments
A jump drive for backing up all essays and other homework

COURSE STANDARDS AND POLICIES:

Attendance: Punctuality and regular attendance are expected at all class meetings. Roll will be taken daily, and assignment points may be awarded for completion of quizzes, in-class assignments, various activities, and general discussion. Furthermore, vital information concerning the texts and the assignments will be covered in class, and this material will not be available otherwise.

Class Decorum and Behavior: Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the duration of the scheduled period. During class, students should listen attentively, engage respectfully in discussions, and **take notes**. They are also expected to come to class prepared and to participate in all in-class assignments and activities. Although water will be permitted, **food of any kind is not tolerated in the classroom, and cell phones must be turned off for the duration of class—this includes text messaging**. Students need to stay in their seats until class has been properly dismissed.

MLA Manuscript Format: Written assignments must be word processed and comply with MLA formatting guidelines; that is, papers **must** have 1" margins; be typed in a 12-point, Times New Roman font; and be double spaced throughout. No cover pages; instead, the first page of all assignments must contain the student's name, the instructor's name, the course title, and the date on separate lines against the left margin. All assignments must also have a descriptive title, centered and just below the date line. Each page should then have a page number, preceded by the student's last name, in the upper right corner (½" below the margin).

Essay Length: The 6-8 page term paper must be **at least** 6 full pages long, not just 5¼ pages. The works cited page does not count towards this minimum length requirement.

Late Work: All homework is due at the beginning of class on the day indicated in the course schedule. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Furthermore, assignments must be submitted as hard copies; **e-mails or other electronic submissions will not be accepted**. If students know they are going to miss class, assignments **must** be handed in early, not late. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made **in advance** and at the instructor's discretion.

Grades: All students' grades are recorded, managed, and calculated on an Excel spreadsheet, which is updated regularly. For privacy issues, these grades are not available on the internet; however, students may ask via e-mail or in person about their grade and current class standing.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments: (20 percent of final grade) Students will participate in various activities and complete many assignments in class, which will include reading quizzes, class discussions, student group discussions, in-class writing, and the viewing of group presentations. **Students must be in class to complete these activities and assignments**. Students will also maintain a critical response journal, which entails writing about one full page of analysis for each day of class. Students should bring their response journals to class to aid them in contributing to that day's discussion (the instructor will check these journals occasionally in class and without warning).

Group Presentation: (10 percent of final grade) Small groups of students will investigate the major literary periods covered by the course and present their findings in class. These 15-20 minute presentations will focus on historical context, a survey of major authors, and a discussion of key theories/theorists. A handout (with enough copies for the whole class), including a bibliography, must also be provided, and all members of the team must be actively involved in the presentation. Audio/visual media enhancements are encouraged, but not required.

Exams: (40 percent of final grade) Students will take three in-class exams. Questions will include passage identification and analysis, possible multiple-choice and matching, and short essay answers. Exams may be taken early under extenuating circumstances and at the instructor’s discretion, but because the third exam will occur during the final exams period, taking it early will require a rescheduling fee. Students are responsible for providing their own examination Blue Books.

Term Paper: (30 percent of final grade) Each student will compose a critical 6-8 page essay that performs an insightful interpretive analysis of any American text, author, theme, or cluster of texts falling in the time period covered by the course. Additional research will be necessary for this project, requiring proper, MLA-style citations. This term paper will be discussed in more detail in class.

GRADING POLICY:

Assignments and the group presentation will be graded on a pass/fail basis, while quizzes and exams will be graded objectively. The term paper will be carefully assessed and assigned a letter grade: work that exceeds expectations will receive an A grade; work that is competent and correct, a B; work that barely meets the minimum requirements, a C or a D. Students’ final grades will be averaged and weighted according to the following grading scales (based on the University’s 4.0grading system):

Grading Weights	Grading Scale			
Assignments x2 (20%)	3.8 – 4.0	A	1.8 – 2.0	C
Group Presentation x1 (10%)	3.4 – 3.7	A-	1.4 – 1.7	C-
Exams x4 (40%)	3.1 – 3.3	B+	1.1 – 1.3	D+
Term Paper x3 (30%)	2.8 – 3.0	B	0.8 – 1.0	D
	2.4 – 2.7	B-	0.4 – 0.7	D-
	2.1 – 2.3	C+	0.0 – 0.3	F

STUDENT FEES:

This course has no student fees.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Scholastic dishonesty is intolerable and will be prosecuted fully. **Any student caught deliberately plagiarizing work will immediately fail that assignment and possibly the entire course.** Students are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with medical, psychological, learning, or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities, located in room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or (435) 865-8022. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these services and aids.

DISCLAIMER:

Information contained in this syllabus—other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies—may be subject to change with advance notice.