

Framingham State University

Syllabus

ENGL 262 American Writers II

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Semester: Summer 2018(July 2nd,2018-August 3rd,2018)

Credit: 4

Teaching Hours: 50 Hours

Time: 2 hours/day, Mon-Fri

Professor Name: Ayaan Agane

Home Institution: FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY

Title: Visiting Lecturer

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course reflects the diversity and range of the American experience. Texts include novels, short stories, plays, poems, letters, memoirs, essays, and criticism beginning in the middle of the nineteenth century. These texts reflect various aesthetic traditions, including realism, naturalism, gothic fiction, magical realism, and others. The course also highlights the cultural movements with which the chosen texts are in conversation, for example, modernism and postmodernism.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of diverse American writers and texts from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present day
2. Critically engage with texts and display analytical reading skills both in class discussions and written responses
3. Understand how cultural and historical contexts influence interpretations of both the studied texts and the American experience

COURSE TEXTS

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Ninth Edition, Volumes Package 2: Volumes C, D, E (eds. Robert S. Levine, Michael A. Elliott, Sandra M. Gustafson, Amy Hungerford, Mary Loeffelholz)

Beloved, Toni Morrison

Additional texts available online

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	20%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Quizzes and short exercises	10%
Participation	10%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule serves as a general overview of the texts and concepts that will be discussed week to week. The instructor reserves the right to alter the course calendar in response to class needs. Students will also be assigned literary criticism as companion texts to those listed below.

Week One (7/2-7/6): Constructing 19th Century American Identities

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (excerpts)

Chief Seattle, "Letter to President Pierce"

Chief Joseph, from "An Indian's Views of Indian Affairs"

Horatio Alger, *Ragged Dick* (excerpts)

Week Two (7/9-7/13): Modern American Fiction

Kate Chopin, "Story of an Hour"

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper'"

Frank Norris, "A Deal in Wheat"

William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"

Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"

Week Three (7/16-7/20): Modern American Poetry and Drama

Poetry:

Emily Dickinson, [I felt a Funeral, in my Brain], [I heard a Fly buzz - when I died -], "I'm Nobody! Who are you?"

Robert Frost, "Mending Wall," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"

T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," "The Waste Land"

Langston Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "Mother to Son"

Sylvia Plath, "Daddy," "Ariel," "Lady Godiva," "Mad Girl's Love Song"

Drama:

Tennessee Williams, *Streetcar Named Desire*

Essay 1 Due

Midterm Exam

Week Four (7/23-7/27): Postmodern

American Literature Kurt Vonnegut,

Slaughterhouse Five (excerpts) Amy Tan, "Two Kinds"

James Baldwin, "Going to Meet the Man"

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

Week Five (7/30-8/3): Postmodern American Literature

Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (continued)

Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (excerpts)

Gloria Anzaldúa, "El Sonavabitch"

Essay 2 Due

Final Exam

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the semester, you will be required to submit your assignments either electronically or in hard copy. I will always let you know how to submit each individual assignment. Pay close attention and follow my instructions in order to receive full credit.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

Adherence to proper manuscript format is crucial. Failure to follow these instructions will reduce the grade of the assignment. Except for assignments completed during class time, handwritten assignments will not be accepted and will therefore receive a zero.

All written assignments must use twelve-point Times New Roman font, use double-spaced text, and have one-inch margins. When turning in hard-copy assignments, you must bind multiple pages with a staple or paper clip. I will provide a sample document that shows the formatting described above.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will not be accepted, which means you will receive a zero for any assignment you hand in after its deadline. I will make exceptions for emergency situations. In the case of an emergency, students should notify me as soon as possible after the fact. In situations when you know of an absence in advance (e.g., a religious observance), you should make arrangements to submit work early or on time. In nonemergency cases when you have completed a hard copy assignment but cannot hand it in during class time (for example, you have the flu, which is generally not an emergency but nevertheless prohibits you from coming to class), you may submit the assignment via email to receive full credit. In these kinds of cases, depending on the assignment you may be asked to submit the hard copy when you next return to class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance for this course is mandatory. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the course. For each unexcused absence you have over two, I will deduct one third of a letter grade from your final course grade. Some examples of excused absences include religious observances and absences due to serious illness when you provide documentation from your doctor. If you are frequently late to class, your tardiness will be counted as absences at my discretion.

A NOTE ON BEING PREPARED FOR CLASS

You must bring the course textbooks to **every** class. You must also bring with you any additional readings or assignments that you were assigned for that day. (For example, if your homework assignment is to read an article online, you must bring that article with you to the following class.) Lack of preparation will hurt your participation grade.

A NOTE ON PARTICIPATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Your participation in this class counts for a substantial part of your final course grade (10%). Participation includes attendance, taking part in class discussion, and active engagement in the classroom (such as paying attention, listening, contributing in group work, etc.). All cell phone use is prohibited, and use of any kind of computer should be limited to classwork only. Be advised that I keep records of your day-to-day participation in class. If I see you improperly using technology in class (e.g., texting, using social media), I will silently add a note to my records, which will reduce your participation grade. Obviously, the more infractions you have, the more your participation grade will suffer.

If you improperly use technology in class in such a way that I deem distracting to me or your fellow students, I will politely ask you to leave, and you will not receive credit for attendance that day.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY (taken from the FSU student handbook)

Academic honesty requires but is not limited to the following practices: appropriately citing all published and unpublished sources, whether quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise expressed, in all of the student's oral and written, technical, and artistic work; observing the policies regarding the use of technical facilities. Infractions of the Policy on Academic Honesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism: claiming as one's own work the published or unpublished literal or paraphrased work of another. It should be recognized that plagiarism is not only academically dishonest but also illegal.

2. Cheating on exams, tests, quizzes, assignments, and papers, including the giving or acceptance of these materials and other sources of information without the permission of the instructor(s).
3. Unauthorized collaboration with other individuals in the preparation of course assignments.
4. Submitting without authorization the same assignment for credit in more than one course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please inform me (in private) within the first two weeks of the course.