

# Framingham State University

## Syllabus

### ENGL 262 American Writers II

Instructor: Ayaan Agane

## COURSE INFORMATION

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Course title: American Writers II

Course number: ENGL 262

Semester: Summer Session 2019

Course meeting times: TBA

Instructor: Ayaan Agane

Instructor email: aagane@framingham.edu

Instructor WeChat ID: AyaanFA\_22

Instructor office hours: Tuesdays, 2:15-3:15 (14:15-15:15)

## DESCRIPTION

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A survey of literature since the middle of the nineteenth century. The course reflects the diversity and range of American experience. Readings may include memoirs, criticism, poetry, fiction, or drama by authors such as Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, Willa Cather, T.S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and James Baldwin. Note: ENGL 261 American Writers I is not a prerequisite for this course. Prerequisite: Completion of Common Core Writing Requirement (ENGL 110 Expository Writing) or permission of the instructor.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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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

4. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of literary and critical movements during the chosen time period (e.g., American realism, American romanticism, New Criticism, deconstruction, etc.)

## REQUIREMENTS

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During this course, you must complete 3 major projects: 2 presentations and 1 essay. Each of these projects must critically engage with the course readings. You will also be required to read the course material, take quizzes, and complete short homework and in-class exercises.

Description of major projects:

Presentation 1: Analysis of a scholarly journal article on *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Presentation 2: Analysis of a scholarly journal article on *Streetcar Named Desire* or *Beloved*

Final Essay: Your response to the critical controversy surrounding *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

## TEXTS AND MATERIALS

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Levine, Robert S., et al., editors. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 9th edition, Vol. Package 2: Volumes C, D, E. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0393264555.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Vintage Books, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-1400033416.

Additional texts available online / provided by instructor

## COURSE CONTENT/OUTLINE

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### **Week One (8<sup>th</sup> July-12<sup>th</sup> July): Constructing/Confronting 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Identities**

Introduction to the course, American romanticism, and American realism

Patricia Kain, "How to Do a Close Reading"

Edgar Allen Poe, "The Raven"

Emily Dickinson, [I heard a Fly buzz - when I died -], [I'm Nobody]

Toni Morrison, "Introduction to *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

David L. Smith, "Huck, Jim, and American Racial Discourse"

Frank Norris, "A Plea for Romantic Fiction"

### **Week Two (15<sup>th</sup> July-19<sup>th</sup> July): Modern American Fiction**

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

Frederick Douglass, “Learning to Read and Write”

Michiko Kakatuni, “Light Out, Huck, They Still Want to Sivilize You”

William Roscoe Thayer, “The New Storytellers and the Doom of Realism”

Kate Chopin, “Story of an Hour”

*Presentation 1 due*

### **Week Three (22<sup>nd</sup> July-26<sup>th</sup> July): Modern American Poetry and Drama**

Poetry:

Robert Frost, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”

James Weldon Johnson, “To America”

Sylvia Plath “Lady Lazarus,” “Mad Girl’s Love Song”

Drama:

Tennessee Williams, *Streetcar Named Desire*

### **Week Four (29<sup>th</sup> July-2<sup>nd</sup> August): Postmodern American Literature**

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five* (excerpts)

Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

*Presentation 2 due*

### **Week Five (5<sup>th</sup> August-9<sup>th</sup> August): Postmodern American Literature**

Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (continued)

Gloria Anzaldúa, “El Sonavabitché”

*Final essay due*

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

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Your final course grade will be calculated according to the following grade weights:

Quizzes and short exercises	10%
Presentation 1	25%
Presentation 2	25%
Essay	30%
Participation	10%

# COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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## **Workload Expectations**

American Writers II is a 4-credit course. It is also an intensive course completed in just 5 weeks. If you are used to taking 3-credit courses, or you are unfamiliar with intensive courses, you should know the workload for this course is significantly larger, and it must be completed within a smaller timeframe. In addition to attending class sessions, you are required to complete a significant amount of work outside class time. This 4-credit course adheres to the U.S. federal definition of a credit hour. According to this definition, for every 1 hour of classroom instruction you attend, you must complete a minimum of 2 hours of out-of-class work. Since this course meets for 2 hours daily (10 hours of classroom time weekly), the expectation is that students spend 20 hours per week doing out-of-class work. For this 5-week, 4-credit course, you will attend 50 hours of classroom time and complete 100 hours of out-of-class work (since the credit hour is defined as 50 minutes).

## **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**

Make-up quizzes will be completed during my office hours on Tuesdays or by appointment. Late assignments will be accepted at my discretion. Some assignments cannot be made up. When you are absent, you should notify me as soon as possible via email or in person. I will provide individual instructions on how and when to complete the work. 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 2 unexcused absences during the course. For each unexcused absence you have over 2, I will deduct 1/3 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 uncertain of whether your absence can be excused, please ask me. If you are frequently late to class, your tardiness will be counted as absences at my discretion.

**IMPORTANT: IF YOU MISS 6 OR MORE CLASSES, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.**

### **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 I gave you in class, 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.). The 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.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

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Framingham State University's policy regarding academic honesty (taken from the undergraduate catalog):

“Integrity is essential to academic life. Consequently, students who enroll at Framingham State University agree to maintain high standards of academic honesty and scholarly practice. They shall be responsible for

familiarizing themselves with the published policies and procedures regarding academic honesty. In addition to the required statement, faculty members shall, at their discretion, include in the course syllabus additional statements relating the definition of academic honesty to their courses. 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; 5. Use of dishonest procedures in computer, laboratory, studio, or field work; 6. Misuse of the University's technical facilities (computer machinery, laboratories, media equipment, etc.), either maliciously or for personal gain; 7. Falsification of forms used to document the academic record and to conduct the academic business of the University."

## ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

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Framingham State University offers equal opportunities to all qualified students, including those with disabilities and impairments. The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations as are necessary to ensure that its programs and activities do not discriminate, or have the effect of discriminating, on the basis of disability. The [Disability/Access Services Office](#) serves students with learning and psychiatric disabilities as well as students with visual, mobility and hearing impairments. For further information about this, please contact Dr. LaDonna Bridges, Associate Dean of Academic Success and Dean of CASA (Center for Academic Success and Achievement) at 508-626-4906 or [lbridges@framingham.edu](mailto:lbridges@framingham.edu).

## U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW

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