



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Language and Literature

English 2120: American Literature II (since 1865)

Please note: Due to Covid-19, this course has been modified from meeting on campus to online-synchronous. This means we will not be meeting in a classroom this semester, but online. Because this course is synchronous, you will need to be available during our regular class meeting day and time. This is particularly important on days we have a meeting scheduled on Zoom (every Tuesday).

Required Materials: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Package 2: Volumes C,D and E*. 9th Edition [ISBN: 978-0-393-26455-5]. Access to equipment and internet for online learning; access to an ETSU email address, Zoom, and D2L [<https://elearn.etsu.edu/d2l/home>].

Course Objectives:

Students will demonstrate the ability to read, analyze, and construct cohesive arguments about literary texts.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of:

- major works of various genres in American Literature from 1865 onward
- literary, historical, and cultural contexts informing those works
- essential literary concepts and terms
- methods used by the humanities and fine arts to interpret historical and contemporary cultures
- critical and ethical reasoning skills
- diverse perspectives linked to identity, including race, gender, and ethnicity

Requirements and Grading:

The following are required to successfully pass this course:

Attendance & Participation (Zoom/D2L):	15%	Response Essays (15% each, 3 total):	45%
Midterm Exam:	20%	Final Exam:	20%

Grading Scale:

A: 93-100	A-: 90-92	B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82	C+: 77-79
C: 73-76	C-: 70-72	D+: 67-69	D: 60-66	F: Below 60	

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. You are expected to attend class meetings as often as possible, and to have completed any assigned work/reading. Attendance and participation are a significant part of your grade; if you are looking for a good grade in this class, attend regularly and participate often.

Not only are you expected to attend regularly, you are also expected to be an active participant in class discussions and exercises. This includes arriving fully prepared, talking, listening, and showing courtesy and respect for your fellow students and me. You are expected to have a notebook and a pen/pencil at every class meeting for notes and in-class journal exercises. *Please have your textbook at every class meeting.*

Disruptive behavior—defined here as any behavior that inhibits student learning or class procedures—will be dealt with immediately and in accordance with ETSU policy. Repeatedly disruptive students will be asked to leave the classroom and reported to the office of the Dean of Students. You must silence all cell phones during class. If you need to miss class for a sanctioned university activity, athletic event or religious holiday, you must provide written documentation prior to the absence.

To help foster the free and open discussion of ideas, students are discouraged from recording classroom lectures and discussion. Any recording (audio and/or visual) must be approved in advance and can be used solely for the student's own private use. Students who wish to record lectures or class activities for study purposes must inform the faculty member first. Students with approved accommodations from the Office of Disability Services (see below) permitting the recording of class meetings must present the accommodation letter to the instructor in advance of any recording being done. Distribution of class recordings is prohibited without express written permission.

Online Course Procedures (T/Th):

Tuesdays: Lecture and discussion on Zoom (synchronous). On Tuesdays we will all meet together to discuss the assigned readings. Please come prepared with all readings for the week completed. You should have your textbooks handy, and be prepared to take lecture notes. You can find our class schedule below, and the link for our weekly Zoom meeting in D2L under the Zoom tab.

Thursdays: Discussion posts on D2L discussion board (asynchronous). On Thursdays you will work independently on the discussion board on our D2L page. Most Thursdays I will post a discussion question or prompt related to our Tuesday lecture and reading. On days when you have a Response Essay due, I will ask you to instead post a paragraph from your essay to share with the class. I would like everyone to post at least twice per week. The first post will be a 5-8 sentence paragraph, either a response to the prompt or a piece of your Response Essay. The second post should be in response to someone else's initial post (2-3 sentences). I will be posting in the discussion boards as well. Try to make your first post by 5pm on Thursday, your second post by 5pm on Friday. You are welcome to post more than twice if you like.

Office Hours: I will hold virtual office hours every Thursday via Zoom. I may vary the times somewhat to best meet students' schedules. I know many students may have complex obligations, so I will make every attempt to be flexible. Please send me an email if you have any questions or would like to schedule an alternate time to meet online or by phone. I'm happy to help any way I can.

Assignment submission: Response essays and exams will be submitted through a dropbox on D2L. Please use a standard file type (.docx, .doc, .rtf) for all dropbox submissions. **No .pdf files, please.** Please save your assignments with your last name and first initial at the start of the file name, followed by a brief description. [For example: SmithJ_Essay1.docx or JohnsonM_Midterm.docx]

Response Essays: Some weeks you will have a short response paper due at the beginning of class on Thursday. There are three essays scheduled (see below for details). These responses are expected to be three (or more) pages long, typed, and deal with a critical issue in one or more of the assigned readings. This is an opportunity for you to expand upon an issue brought up during a class discussion, to explore issues that interest you, and to demonstrate a thorough reading knowledge of the assigned texts. Collectively, these responses are a considerable portion of your overall grade and should be serious, cohesive discussions of the work assigned that week. It is recommended that you use specific examples and direct quotes from the assigned texts, but additional outside research is optional. If you use material from outside sources, you must cite all sources correctly have a complete and correctly formatted Works Cited page. Response essays should be typed in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, double-spaced, and follow MLA guidelines. Three weekly responses are scheduled during the course of the semester. Responses are worth 15% each, for a total of 45% of your final grade. Responses that are less than three pages long will be penalized. Please use a standard file format when saving your work, such as .doc, .docx, or .rtf.

All essay assignments must be submitted through the correct dropbox on D2L. *Do not email assignments* unless specifically instructed to do so.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: Two online exams will be administered during the semester, a midterm and final. Each exam will contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions designed to test your reading knowledge of the assigned texts. **All exams in this course are comprehensive.** All exams are open-note and open-book. Do not just cut and paste information into the exam; all answers must be in your own words, and any quotes you use must be accompanied by a complete, correct MLA citation. We will discuss the exams in greater detail as the semester progresses. Each exam is worth 20% of your overall grade; see schedule for due dates. As with your essays, please use a standard file format when saving your work, such as .doc, .docx, or .rtf. All exams must be submitted through the correct dropbox on D2L. *Do not email assignments* unless specifically instructed to do so.

Late Work: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date. Work that is received one class period late will have its final grade reduced by 50%. Work that is received more than one class period late will receive a zero. If you know you are going to be absent the day an assignment is due, please advise me of this in advance so you can turn in the assignment early, or make alternate arrangements. If illness or another emergency will prevent you from completing an assignment on time, you must contact me prior to the due date to request an extension. *I do not accept work that is placed in my mailbox, under my office door, or sent via email without prior approval.* Hand-written work is not acceptable unless specified, and will be counted late. Communication is crucial. Please keep me informed if a situation arises that is beyond your control. **Computer, internet and/or printer problems are not good excuses for late assignments. Check all equipment in advance and give yourself plenty of time to complete and submit every assignment.**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this department, and its consequences are serious. Proven willful plagiarism will result in failure in the course and may include dismissal from the university. The MLA Handbook defines plagiarism as repeating

as your own someone else's sentences, more or less verbatim.....Other forms of plagiarism include repeating someone else's particularly apt phrase without appropriate acknowledgment, paraphrasing another person's argument as your own, and presenting another's line of thinking.....as though it were your own.

Please note that I take academic misconduct very seriously. Any incidence of proven willful plagiarism will be reported to the university and addressed in accordance with ETSU standards. See ETSU Academic Misconduct Policy: <http://www.etsu.edu/academicintegrity/student.aspx>

Accommodation For Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example, note taking assistance, exam time adjustment or seating placement, should meet with Disability Services. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to eligible students and should be shared with the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services can be reached via telephone at 439-8346, or web at <https://www.etsu.edu/students/ds/>

Mental Health: The ETSU Counseling Center provides many counseling services to serve student needs. **Walk in hours** for arranging counseling sessions are M – TH, 10:00 – 11:30am & 2:00 – 3:30pm. The Counseling Center also offers **Single Session Therapy** M-TH, 10:00-11:30am & 2:00-3:30pm. **Let's Talk** consultations are held in Sherrod Library, Rm 328 (please see website for days/times). **BucsPress2**, a 24/7/365 telephone mental health helpline, can be reached by calling 423-439-4841 (then press "2"). All above services are free.

The ETSU Counseling Center is located at Nell Dossett Residence Hall (3rd floor), 423-439-3333. Find out more at <http://www.etsu.edu/students/counseling>

If you or someone you know is in imminent danger of harm, call 911.

Counseling Center - The Counseling Center is staffed by psychologists and other mental health professionals, who provide personal counseling, career counseling, psychiatric services, consultation, and educational programs. Counseling services are confidential and free to all ETSU students. Also, the Counseling Center staff teach the course "Solving the Puzzle of Life" (HDAL 2350). CALL 439-3333, or visit our web site: <https://www.etsu.edu/students/counseling/>

Center for Academic Achievement: Located on the first floor of the Sherrod Library, the Center for Academic Achievement (CFAA) is the place to go for help with writing and speaking, library research, core math and science courses, and other subjects. the center offers tutoring on a walk-in and appointment basis and is open during library hours, including nights and weekends. Call 423-439-7111 or go to <https://www.etsu.edu/students/cfaa/> for more information.

For more info on ETSU policies please visit: <https://www.etsu.edu/reg/academics/syllabus.php#honor1>

***Your continued attendance in this class means that you have read and understood the rules, policies and guidelines that this syllabus details. If you have any questions, it is your sole responsibility to get clarification immediately.*

**** In the event of changes to the course schedule, I will make every effort to give you notice in advance.****

English 2120: Tentative Class Schedule (May be subject to change if necessary)

Week 1

T 1/19 Zoom meeting: Class Introductions; purchase text
R 1/21 D2L Discussion Board

Week 2

T 1/26 Zoom meeting, Read: **Vol.C 1865-1914:** Mark Twain: from *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* [Ch.1-9] (Vol.C p111-115, 119-152); Charlot: [He has filled graves with our bones] (p664-667); Black Elk and Neihardt: from *Black Elk Speaks* (p682-687)
R 1/29 D2L Discussion Board

Week 3

T 2/2 Zoom meeting, Read: Ambrose Bierce: "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and "Chickamauga" (p394-406); Charles Chesnutt: "Goophered Grapevine" and "The Wife of his Youth" (p724-733, 740-749); W.E.B. Du Bois: from *The Souls of Black Folk* [Ch. I and III] (p918-937)
R 2/4 D2L Discussion Board

Week 4

T 2/9 Zoom meeting, Read: Charlotte Perkins Gilman: "The Yellow Wallpaper" and "Why I Wrote . . ." (p842-857); Kate Chopin: "The Story of an Hour" (p537-548); Jack London: "The Law of Life" and "To Build a Fire" (p1107-1124);
^R 2/11 D2L Discussion Board [Response Essay Due]

Week 5

T 2/16 Zoom meeting, Read: **Vol.D 1914-1945**: F.T. Marinetti: from “Manifesto of Futurism” (**Vol.D** p316-317); Mina Loy: “Feminist Manifesto” (p318-321); Ezra Pound: “To Whistler, American,” “Portrait d’une Femme,” “A Virginal,” “A Pact,” “In a Station of the Metro,” from *The Cantos* (XLV “With Usura”), from “A Retrospect” (p293-297, 313-314, 321-323)

R 2/18 **NO CLASS**

Week 6

T 2/23 Zoom meeting, Read: Zora Neale Hurston: “How it Feels to be Colored Me” (p515-517, 533-536); Langston Hughes: “The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” “Mother to Son,” “I Too,” and “Theme for English B” (p833-836, 844); Midterm exam review

*R 2/25 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 7

T 3/2 Zoom meeting, Read: T.S. Eliot: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” from *Tradition and the Individual Talent*, and “Journey of the Magi” (p352-358, 359-362, 381-382); Robert Frost: “Mending Wall,” “Home Burial,” “The Road Not Taken,” “Birches,” “The Gift Outright,” and “The Figure a Poem Makes” (p218-219, 220-221, 225-228, 230-232, 236, 238-240)

R 3/4 D2L Discussion Board

Week 8

T 3/9 Zoom meeting, Read: F. Scott Fitzgerald: “Babylon Revisited” (p629-630, 646-660); Ernest Hemingway: “Hills Like White Elephants” (p795-796, 803-807)

^R 3/11 D2L Discussion Board [**Response Essay Due**]

Week 9

T 3/16 **NO CLASS**

R 3/18 [No D2L Discussion Board, optional midterm conferences], Read: William Faulkner: *As I Lay Dying* (p666-764, first half)

Week 10

T 3/23 Zoom meeting, Read: William Faulkner: *As I Lay Dying* (p666-764, second half)

R 3/25 D2L Discussion Board

Week 11

T 3/30 Zoom meeting, Read: **Vol.E Since 1945**: Allen Ginsburg: “Howl,” “Footnote to Howl,” and “A Supermarket in California” (**Vol.E** p485-496) Sylvia Plath: “Morning Song,” “Lady Lazarus” and “Daddy” (p620-624, 626-628); Hunter S. Thompson: from *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (p1139-1141); Joan Didion: from *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (p1141-1144)

R 4/1 D2L Discussion Board

Week 12

T 4/6 Zoom meeting, Read: John Cheever: “The Swimmer” (p139-148); Ursula Le Guin: “Shrodinger’s Cat” and “She Unnames Them” (p587-595); Donald Barthelme: “The Balloon” (p601-605); Art Spiegelman: from *Maus* (p1049-1066)

^R 4/8 D2L Discussion Board [**Response Essay Due**]

Week 13

T 4/13 Zoom meeting, Read: Thomas Pynchon: “Entropy” (p730-742); Louise Erdrich: “Dear John Wayne” and “Fleur” (p1109-1111, 1112-1121); Li-Young Lee: “The Gift” (p1122-1123); McNally: “Torture” (D2L)

R 4/15 D2L Discussion Board

Week 14

T 4/20 ETSU Celebrates Creative Writing—(no regular class)

R 4/22 D2L Discussion Board

Week 15

T 4/27 Zoom Meeting: Final Review

R 4/29 Study Day/TBD

***Final Exam:** Online, Schedule TBD

^Indicates essay due

***Indicates exam**