



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Language and Literature

English 2120: American Literature II (since 1865)

Course: ENGL 2120
Class Location: Online
Textbook: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. 2/C-E 9th ed. W.W. Norton, 2017.

Course Description:

ENGL 2120, the sophomore-level survey of American literature from Reconstruction to the present day, serves two purposes; it acquaints students with works by some of the more influential writers and ideas of American literary tradition, and it helps students to develop reading and critical skills that will be useful in most phases of their education and careers.

Goals:

- To leave this course with a better knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for literature generally and American literature specifically.
- To have rewarding discussion that illuminate the pieces we read, demonstrating how literature relates to our diverse lives.
- To develop critical thinking skills. We want to be able to identify and discuss the critical issues in specific texts. In other words, we want to become better readers.
- To learn to speak and write intelligently about pieces of literature as historically situated texts rather than ahistorical artifacts.

Prerequisites:

Students must have satisfactorily completed both ENGL 1010 (“Critical Reading and Expository Writing”) and ENGL 1020 (“Critical Thinking and Argumentation”) or their equivalents to be eligible to take this course. If you have not fulfilled these requirements, you must drop this course. While this course will help fulfill the humanities section of the core curriculum, this course will not apply towards a major or minor in English.

Grading and Requirements:

Grading Scale

A	93 and above
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82

C+	77-79
C	70-76
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	below 60

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Discussion Projects	25%
Reading Response Journal	25%
Literary or Character Analysis	25%
Cultural Context Research Paper	25%

Class Discussion Projects: You are responsible for **6** discussion projects (due dates listed below in the schedule of reading and assignments). The guidelines for each project are detailed in the discussion forum in which you will submit them. The Discussion Projects portion of your grade will be the average of your grades on each of these assignments.

Reading Response Journal: You will be required to keep a reading journal in which you respond to **15** readings. You may respond to any assigned reading. Each response should be no less than 500 words that address your own interpretation of the assigned reading. **I strongly discourage referencing online sources to complete the reading responses.** Responses that paraphrase interpretations or summaries found online will not receive credit and will likely be considered plagiarized. There are three goals for each Reading Response: 1. Make a specific claim about the text. 2. Support that claim with evidence from the text. 3. Write clearly. As a fourth, optional, goal, you can try to connect an event in the text with your own personal experiences. Be thoughtful and creative with your responses and to use them to explore ideas for possible paper topics. Complete guidelines for this assignment are located in D2L Content. Due date is listed below in the schedule of reading and assignments.

Literary or Character Analysis and Cultural Context Research Paper: Complete guidelines for these assignments are located in D2L Content. Due dates are listed below in the schedule of reading and assignments.

Course Policies:

D2L Content Delivery: Students should have ready, reliable access to a working computer and the Internet, as D2L is the primary mode of content delivery and course interaction. Regular and dependable access to the Internet is a must. I also recommend that you either purchase or have access to a fairly recent edition of *Microsoft Word*, both for viewing course materials and submitting your work. This program is available on all ETSU lab computers, and student versions of the software can be purchased at a reduced price through Amazon and other online retailers. I require that students submit all essays in *Microsoft Word* in the .docx or .doc format. Students must submit assignments electronically by placing them in the digital dropbox of *D2L*. **If I cannot open your document, then you have not submitted it.**

Assignment Formatting Guidelines: Essays are to be submitted in MLA format, both in terms of format and source documentation. Every paper must have an appropriate Works Cited page

even if all that is listed are your primary sources (the literature you are discussing). Any and all secondary sources must be documented even if you do not quote from them. I do not require a handbook for this course, but I strongly recommend purchasing one that contains a section on MLA because you will be held accountable for errors in MLA style.

Late Assignments: I do not accept late work. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due on the date shown on the course calendar. Personal computer malfunctions do not constitute a valid reason for late work. I suggest that you purchase a jump-drive (or at least make a habit of emailing documents to yourself) in order to back up your work. **Please make sure that you submit your papers in .doc format. Remember, if I cannot open your file, I did not receive your paper.** I will not accept hard copy papers (unless otherwise specified), or papers sent to my email.

Plagiarism: One instance of intentional and proven plagiarism will result in an automatic failure of this course and will be reported to the Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Whether it is excessive collaboration, insufficient documentation, inadequate paraphrase, attempting to pass someone else's work or ideas as your own, or submitting a recycled paper, plagiarism will be punishable by an "F" in the course and may be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Plagiarism is a bad reason to fail a course. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. If you use someone's words or ideas, give them credit for it. If you are not sure how to do that, ask me.

Discussion and Content: I realize that we come from diverse backgrounds, ideologies, and sensitivities, but some material may cover religious, political, ethical, racial, sexual, and other sensitive themes. I also realize that some students may find some material offensive. Aristotle said, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." It is important to distinguish between ideas that are promoted by characters and authors, and the instruction that I provide. If you have any problems with the material or discussions in this class, please contact me so we can avoid any misunderstandings. The content of some of the required reading may be personally challenging for some readers. We will discuss these possibilities more as we approach each reading.

Resources:

Mental Health

The ETSU Counseling Center (423-439-3333)

The Counseling Center provides many counseling services to serve student needs. Walk-in hours are Mondays-Thursdays 10:00am-11:30am & 2:00pm-3:30pm. 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. CALL 439-3333, or visit our web site: <https://www.etsu.edu/students/counseling/>

BucsPress 2 help line: (423-439-4841 then press 2)

BucsPress2 is a 24-hour mental health help line for ETSU Students. It provides FREE, confidential crisis counseling over the phone. It is staffed 24/7/365 by counseling professionals under contract with The Counseling Center.

ETSU Community Counseling Clinic (423-439-7679 and leave a message)

The Community Counseling Clinic offers free counseling services to ETSU students and members of the community. Individual counseling for adults, adolescents, and children is available, as well as couples counseling and family therapy is provided by our counselors-in-training. You may call the number above or email the clinic at CCC@etsu.edu to make an appointment.

ETSU Behavioral Health and Wellness Clinic (423-439-7777)

The ETSU Behavioral Health and Wellness Clinic (BHWC) is part of the Department of Psychology's Doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. Their staff are graduate student clinicians. All student clinicians are closely supervised by licensed psychologists. They are licensed by the State of Tennessee as a Mental Health Facility. Call the BHWC at 423-439-7777 to be scheduled for a telephone screening with our Clinic Coordinator. The BHWC is located at 166 DeRosier Drive in the lower level, East side of Lucille Clement Hall (BLDG 134) in room 139 on the campus of ETSU in Johnson City, TN.

Academic

Advisement Resources Career Center (ARC) (423-439-8650)

Contact the ARC Helpdesk with general academically related or support service questions and for quick referrals i.e., "Who is my advisor?", "How do I register for classes?" etc. Located on the first floor of the Sherrod Library, Room 104. Phone: 423-439-8650 or email arc@etsu.edu

University Advisement Center (UAC): (423-439-5244)

The UAC provides academic, career and personal counseling to those students who have not declared a specific major or those in an Academic Focus Area. The UAC also supports students requiring Learning Support in Reading, Writing, Math. Students requiring Learning Support in Math should also see their major advisor. By focusing on all aspects of student life, the UAC is able to assist each student in achieving academic success and attaining personal goals. In academics and career planning, Counselors help students understand academic requirements and identify career options that affirm their academic strengths and interests. As a campus resource, Counselors assist students with accessing the wide variety of campus services to meet their needs. Visit our website at <https://www.etsu.edu/uac> or call 423-439-5244.

Adult, Commuter, and Transfer Services (423-439-5641)

Personalized counseling advisement for adult, commuter, and transfer students. Commuting student services: rideshare, off-campus housing listings, transit schedules, area maps, and childcare information. One-Stop Shopping: campus forms, applications, catalogs, schedules, and information. Visit their web site at www.etsu.edu/students/acts.

Undergraduate Student Success Specialist (423-439-8777)

Need assistance with obstacles you may be having in day to day life? The Undergraduate Student Success Specialist will work with you to help resolve problems and provide support by identifying resources on campus and in the community. Contact the USSS via email at undergradsuccess@etsu.edu, by phone at 439-8777 or stop by in person by visiting the ARC on the second floor of the D.P. Culp Center.

Center for Academic Achievement (423-439-7111)

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. All summer sessions are conducted online. Call 439-7111 or go to www.etsu.edu/rec for more information.

Disability Services:

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities. Any student who needs special accommodations should contact Disability Services by visiting their office on the 3rd floor of the D.P. Culp Center or by calling 439-8346.

Schedule of Reading and Assignments:

Unless otherwise noted all readings are from *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. This schedule is subject to change.

1865-1914 (Volume C)

Week 1: January 19-24

- “American Literature 1865-1914” (1-15)
- **Walt Whitman:** Introduction (19-22); *from* “Song of Myself” sections 1,6, 7, 15, 48, 51, and 52 (23)
- **Emily Dickinson:** Introduction (88-92); “207” (94); “236” (95); “340” (98); “479” (101); “591” (103)
- **Discussion Project 1: Introduction due January 24 by 11:30 p.m.**

Week 2: January 25-31

- **Henry James:** Introduction (406-409); *Daisy Miller: A Study* (410-449)
- **Edith Wharton:** Introduction (857); “The Other Two” (859); “Roman Fever” (872)

Week 3: February 1-7

- **Kate Chopin:** Introduction (537-8); “Desiree’s Baby” (538); “The Story of an Hour” (542); “The Storm” (544)
- **Discussion Project 2: Playlist due February 7 by 11:30 p.m.**

Week 4: February 8-14

- **Charlotte Perkins Gillman:** Introduction (842); “The Yellow Wallpaper” (844); “Why I Wrote ‘The Yellow Wallpaper’” (856)
- **Discussion Project 3: Journal Entry due February 14 by 11:30 p.m.**

1914-1945 (Volume D)

Week 5: February 15-21

- “American Literature 1914-1945” (3-21)
- **Willa Cather:** Introduction (32); *My Antonia* (35)

Week 6: February 22-28

- **Willa Cather:** Finish *My Antonia*
- **Literary/Character Analysis due February 28 by 11:30 p.m.**

Week 7: March 1-7

- **Robert Frost:** Introduction (21 8); “Mending Wall” (220); “Birches” (231)
- **William Carlos Williams:** Introduction (281); “The Red Wheelbarrow” (288); “This Is Just to Say” (289)
- **Ezra Pound:** Introduction (293); “The River-Merchant’s Wife: A Letter” (297)
- **T.S. Eliot:** Introduction (352); “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (355)

Week 8: March 8-14

- **Langston Hughes:** “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (835); “I, Too” (836); “The Weary Blues” (836); “Theme for English B” (844)
- **Discussion Project 4: Poetry Explication Video due March 14 by 11:30 p.m.**

Week 9: March 15-16 (Spring Break March 17-20)

- **Spring Break! Enjoy an extra couple of days.**

Week 10: March 22-28

- **Susan Glaspell:** Introduction (241); *Trifles* (242)
- **Discussion Project 5: Social Media Profile due by March 28 at 11:30 p.m.**

American Literature Since 1945 (Volume E)

Week 11: March 29-April 4

- “American Literature since 1945” (3-21)
- **Mary Oliver:** Introduction and all poems (687-693)

Week 12: April 5-11

- **Lucille Clifton:** Introduction and all poems (694-699)

Week 13: April 12-18

- **Ada Limón:** “The Leash”; “Instructions on Not Giving Up”; “How to Triumph Like a Girl”; “The Raincoat”; “The Conditional” and “A New National Anthem” (all of these poems will be linked in D2L)
- **Discussion Project 6: A poem in the style of Oliver, Clifton, or Limon due by April 18 at 11:30 pm.**

Week 14: April 19-25

- **Cultural Context Paper due April 25 by 11:30 p.m.**

Week 15: April 26-30

- **Reading Response Journal due April 30 by 11:30 p.m.**