



中央民族大學
MINZU UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

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Minzu University of China
ENGL 200 American Literature
Summer 2020

Basic Information

Class hours: Monday through Thursday, 2 hours each day

Discussion: Friday, 1 hour (60 minutes)

Review Section: Saturday, 1 hour (60 minutes)

Office Hour: 2 hours (According to professors' teaching plan)

Field trip: According to professors' teaching plan

Credit: 4

Total contact hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Instructor: Fionnuala T. Regan

Required Text

Literature: A Pocket Anthology, 6th edition, by R. S. Gwynn. Published 2015 by Pearson.

Course Description

This course will take us on a journey through a study of American literature from its earliest days in puritan America through 21st representations of life and literature in the United States. We will follow the development of the country through the evolution of its literature across the centuries, reading iconic plays, short stories, essays, and poetry, among other selections. The themes we will explore include nationhood and citizenship; class, race, and gender; and immigration. Our course will be primarily discussion-based. For each class session, students must have completed the assigned readings and be ready to discuss your focused questions or comments. Close reading of the texts is essential.

Course Objectives

- Develop personal interpretations of issues of language, narrative structure, experience, themes, and philosophies
- Develop the skill of reading literature critically and write a critical analysis of selections of literature
- Analyze and evaluate the elements of literature including plot, character, setting, irony, foreshadowing, theme
- Identify techniques and literary devices employed by writers to transmit ideas (thesis, tone, figurative language, style, narrative viewpoint)
- Recognize features and characteristics of representative authors
- Develop the skill of active and critical reading
- Access and employ literary criticism and secondary source materials that augment primary texts
- Employ secondary sources to support their own ideas in writing (using current MLA or APA style)

Teaching Content

Week 1:

Day 1: Introduction to American Literature

Short nonfiction and fiction

Day 2: John Heckewelder, from *History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations*; Sagoyewatha, "Reply to the Missionary Jacob Cram"; John Adams' and Abigail Adams' "Letters"; Thomas Paine, "The Crisis, No. 1"

Day 3: Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"; Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of



Amontillado”

Day 4: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Week 2:

Day 1: Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”; William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”; Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”

Day 2: Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”; John Updike, “A&P”

Day 3: Raymond Carver, “Cathedral”; Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”

Day 4: Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”; Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”

Week 3:

Day 1: Paper 1 due.

Introduction to poetry

Day 2: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tyger”; Emily Dickinson, “Because I Could Not Stop for Death,” “Tell All the Truth, But Tell It Slant”

Day 3: Robert Frost, “Acquainted with the Night,” “After Apple-Picking,” “The Road Not Taken,” “Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening”

Day 4: Mid-Term Exam

Week 4:

Day 1: T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”; e.e. cummings, “anyone lived in a pretty how town”

Day 2: Langston Hughes, “Dream Boogie,” “The Weary Blues”; Theodore Roethke, “My Papa’s Waltz” **Day 3:** John Ashbery, “Paradoxes and Oxymorons”; Adrienne Rich, “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers”; Mary Oliver, “The Black Walnut Tree”; Billy Collins, “The Lanyard”

Day 4: Introduction to drama. Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*

Week 5:

Day 1: Paper 2 due.

Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*

Day 2: August Wilson, *Fences*

Day 3: August Wilson, *Fences*.

Day 4: Final Exam.

Grading

Essays/papers (2)	40%
Quizzes (open book)	15%
Discussions, Participation	10%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%

Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the undocumented use of another person’s ideas, organization, or research. It is plagiarism to turn in a paper written by another student or to copy or paraphrase any portion of your text from any other source without citing it properly. Students who plagiarize may receive a course grade of **F**.

Attendance Policy

Students who miss more than three class sessions may be dropped. Students who are habitually late to class will have their final grade lowered. There are consequences for every choice, so choose wisely. As college students, you are responsible enough to know the importance of attending and participating in class. Be aware that missing classwork carries significant risk, potentially resulting in a lower or failing final grade. Students must have the reading and writing assignments prepared in order for the class to



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work.

Required Resources

Microsoft Word for written assignments.