

**Division of Humanities
Department of English
Course Syllabus**

**LIT-201-XXX
American Literature 1880-Present**

**Semester and year
Section Number
Meeting Times
Location**

**Instructor:
Office Location:
Phone:
E-mail:
Office Hours:**

Course Description

This course is a study of representative American literature from the late nineteenth century to the present. Students read works by such authors as Twain, O'Neill, Hurston, Hemingway, Faulkner, Frost, Wright, Ginsberg, and Rich.

General Education Course. Lecture (3.00). Prerequisite: WRT-101.

Student Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment
1. Identify major works and themes of American literature from the latter nineteenth century to the present.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation
2. Employ close textual analysis to interpret and evaluate works of American literature.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation
3. Demonstrate, in both class discussion and written assignments, an understanding of the major genres of early American literature as well as the various literary techniques that writers use in constructing their texts..	Discussion, Writing
4. Identify the correlative aesthetic, literary, historical, cultural, social, and/or political movements that contextualize the texts under study.	Discussion, Writing

5. Apply appropriate critical lenses to works of American literature.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation.
6. Produce a properly formatted written evaluation of selected works of American literature; and demonstrate competency in both research methodologies and literary analysis.	Writing, Multimodal Presentation

Essential Learning Outcomes

SLOs:	EL 1	EL 2	EL 3	EL 4	EL 5	EL 6	EL 7	EL 8	EL 9	EL 10	EL 11
1.	x	x							x		
2.	x	x							x		
3.	x	x							x		
4.	x	x							x		
5.	x	x							x		
6.	x	x			x				x		

EL1-Effective Speaking
 EL2-Effective Writing
 EL3-Mathematical Reasoning
 EL4-Scientific Reasoning
 EL5-Technological Competency
 EL6-Information Literacy
 EL7-Social-Behavioral Analysis

EL8-Historical Analysis
 EL9-Humanistic Analysis
 EL10-Intercultural Awareness
 EL11-Moral Literacy

Signature Assignment

Researched Analysis: Students will write a 7-10 paged analysis, using secondary sources, of a primary source text introduced in the course.

Suggested Text(s)

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 6th Edition.
 Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. New York: Plume, 1970.
 Roth, Philip. *Goodbye Columbus and Five Short Stories*. New York: Vintage, 1959.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to do the following:

1. Analyze works of literature using a variety of approaches.
2. Participate in class activities such as discussion, writing, and presentations.
3. Write 15-20 pages or 3750-5000 words for the course. This may include the following: journals, quizzes, papers, exams, research papers, class presentation, summaries, and responses

Evaluation

Over the course of the term, you will write several short (1-2 page) response papers that will be both analytical—in terms of text and sociopolitical context—and critical. You will also be given a midterm and final exam, which will consist of a series of short essay questions to be completed at home. You will also give a short presentation on one of the texts for which you will give the class a series of discussion questions; and there will be a term paper of approximately 5-7 pages.

Written responses: 35%

Midterm Paper: 25%

Final Paper: 30 %

Class participation: 10%

Attendance Policy

Your presence is vital to our classroom community, so regular attendance is required. You will be permitted *four absences* after which your grade will be negatively affected. You are expected to come to class every day prepared to discuss assigned texts and to produce written responses both in class and at home.

Plagiarism

Bergen Community College, like all institutions of higher learning, is committed to maintaining academic integrity. Plagiarism, the act of trying to pass any part of another person's writing off as your own without giving them proper credit, is considered one of the most serious academic crimes. **Any instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic 0 for that assignment.**

Examples of plagiarism are:

- Using any material from another source and including it in your writing without attribution. These sources could be from the internet, books, newspapers, or another student. Cutting and pasting without giving credit to the original source is illegal.

- The use of another's ideas without the proper citations.
- Handing in work, a whole essay, or even one paragraph, that was written by someone else or by Artificial Intelligence, without attribution.

Accessibility Statement

Bergen Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Special Services (OSS) as soon as possible at 201-612-5270 or www.bergen.edu/oss. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with OSS. The OSS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. The OSS serves as a clearinghouse on disability issues and works in partnership with faculty and all other student service offices.

Student Support Services

Bergen Community College provides exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. A comprehensive array of student support services including advising, tutoring, academic coaching, and more are available online at <https://bergen.edu/currentstudents/>.



BCC's Writing Center is located in L125, and you are encouraged to work with our faculty and professional writing tutors.

Sidney Silverman Library

BCC's library (2nd floor, Pitkin Educational Center, 201-447-7131, <http://bergen.edu/current-students/student-support-services/library>) is a superb resource for students in all disciplines, but particularly for students in Literature sections. Please visit the library and library for invaluable background information and critical perspectives on all genres of literature, their historical significance, and individual authors.

[Guides BY SUBJECT - LibGuides at Bergen Community College](#)

General Search and Databases: [Library | Bergen Community College](#)

Sample Class Schedule

Week 1

Introductions.

American Literature and The Sociopolitical Landscape—introduction, pp. 3-14. Week 2

Discussion of Realism, Regional Writing, and Representational Literature as a means of resistance.

Walt Whitman *Preface to Leaves of Grass* pp.

21-35 Walt Whitman *Leaves of Grass*, pp. 37-79

Martin Espada "Poetry like Bread: Poets of the Political Imagination" (handout)

Week 3

Whitman continued.

An introduction to women's voices—Dickinson &

Gilman. Emily Dickinson: 280, 315, 1545

Adrienne Rich "Vesuvius at Home: The Power of Emily Dickinson" (handout)

Week 4

Charlotte Perkins Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper" pg. 831

Week 5

The Regional Narrative

Henry James "Art of Fiction" pp. 553-562

Theodore Dreiser "Old Ragaum and His Theresa" pg. 952

Abraham Cahan "A Sweat-Shop Romance" pg. 822

Writing Assignment #1: Please write a 2-3 page response to/analysis of Realism as a means of representation and/or resistance in a minimum of two of the texts covered.

Week 6

"American Literature Between the Wars" pp. 1071-1086

Gertrude Stein "The Making of Americans" pg. 1152

Robert Frost "The Figure a Poem Makes" pg. 1200

Week 7

Modern American Poetry/Prose

T. S. Eliot "The Wasteland" pg. 1430

Zora Neale Hurston "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" pg. 1516

Ernest Hemingway "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" pg. 1848

Midterm Paper assignment: Please write a 3-5 page comparative analysis of two authors from the Modern period—literature between the wars. This essay will be a documented paper and must adhere to MLA style.

Week 8

Race in America

Langston Hughes "Visitors to the Black Belt" pg. 1899

Ralph Ellison "Battle Royal" pg. 2083
 James Baldwin "Going to Meet the Man" pg. 2191
 Alice Walker "Everyday Use" pg. 246

Week 9

Toni Morrison "Recitatif" pg. 2253
The Bluest Eye

Week 10

The Bluest Eye

Week 11

Finish *The Bluest Eye*

Topics/Proposals due for final paper.

Your final paper (due Week 15) will be a 5-7 page deep analysis of a specific genre and/or author. You will analyze/critique the author and/or specific text for both its representational and aesthetic qualities.

Week 12

"**American Prose Since 1945**" pp. 1953-1965
 Saul Bellow "Looking for Mr. Green" pg. 2095
 Kurt Vonnegut "Fates Worse Than Death" pg. 2183
 Thomas Pynchon "Entropy" pg. 2357
 Introduction to Philip Roth's *Goodbye Columbus*

Week 13

Goodbye Columbus

Writing Assignment #2: This will be a short (1-2 page) response to a principle character in the text.

Thanksgiving

Week 14

Women's Voices

Maxine Hong Kingston "Tripmaster Monkey" pg. 2402
 Gloria Anzaldua "El sonavabitch" pg. 2455
 Louise Erdrich "Fleur" pg. 2562

Week 15

American Poetry since 1945

Amiri Baraka "A Poem for Willie Best" pg. 2315
 Stanley Kunitz "Father and Son" pg. 2653
 Gwendolyn Brooks "The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till" pg. 2786 & "The Blackstone Rangers" pg. 2786
 Allen Ginsberg "Howl" pg. 2865 & "A Supermarket in California" pg. 2