American Public University System

School of Arts and Humanities
LITR221
American Literature Since the Civil War
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite: ENGL101

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Instructor Information

See your classroom for your instructor’s contact information.

Course Description

This course examines the rapid social and technological changes that have taken place in American culture during the mid-to-late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and how these upheavals have been expressed in our nation's literature. (Prerequisite: ENGL101).

Course Scope

In this course, we will explore American literature from the Civil War to the present. The literature selected is diverse and represents the vast tracts of
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America’s culture. Timely issues and traditions are studied in their historical, social, political, and economic context. With the passage of time, these issues and dilemmas multiplied, as did the philosophic, economic, and cultural assumptions that helped frame our country. Frank Norris, an American Naturalist author stated, “The function of a novelist . . . is to comment upon life as he sees it.”

Course Objectives

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After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

- LO-1: Categorize the major authors of American literature since the Civil War by both genre and movement.
- LO-2: Analyze the elements of specific literary genres, including poetry, prose, and biographical accounts.
- LO-3: Compare and contrast different periods and movements of American literature.
- LO-4: Apply knowledge of literary concepts to determine where a given piece fits into the American literary canon.
- LO-5: Distinguish the characteristics that make a literary work uniquely American.

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Course Delivery Method

American Literature Since the Civil War is delivered via distance learning. It will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Assignments for this class include written assignments and forum assignments. Finally, in the course project the learner will be required to relate these movements, periods, and authors together in order to assert a general conclusion about American literature. Throughout the course, the learner’s writing and documentation skills will prove essential to demonstrate comprehension of the material and his/her mastery of the art of academic analysis. The instructor will support students throughout the duration of this course.

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Course Materials

Required Texts:


Copyright Alert
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**Software Requirements:**
- Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader ([Click here for free download](#))

### Evaluation Procedures

**Weekly Forums** (a minimum of 3 weekly posts required, over at least three separate days to be eligible for a maximum C graded. Four posts over three days to be eligible for a maximum grade of B and five posts over three days to be eligible for a grade of A).

**Essays:** Three essays, 100 points each

Your final grade will be based on the following:

<table>
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<th>Grade Instruments</th>
<th>Percent to Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Forums (8x30)</td>
<td>240 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 3</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>540 pts</strong></td>
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Please see the [Student Handbook](#) (click here) to reference the University’s grading scale.

### Course Outline
**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments and Forums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introduction to the course | LO-1 LO-2 | **Reading(s) Assignment**  
**Introduction/American Literature Post Civil War**  
1. Eily Dickinson, “I’m Nobody! Who Are You?”  
2. Walt Whitman: Author Bio  
3. Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself”  
View the following videos from the Favorite Poem Project:  
“I’m Nobody”  
“Song of Myself” | Introduction Forum Week 1 Forum |
|      | Meeting your classmates and instructor |  |  |  |
|      | Course expectations |  |  |  |
|      | Writing about poetry |  |  |  |
|      | Identity in Literature |  |  |  |
|      | Reader Response criticism |  |  |  |
| 2    | Social Realism | LO-1 LO-2 LO-4 | **Reading(s) Assignment**  
**Social Realism**  
Mark Twain: Author Bio  
Mark Twain: War Prayer  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Author Bio  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper: Robert Frost: Author Bio  
Robert Frost: “Mending Wall”  
Edwin Arlington Robinson: Author Bio  
Edwin Arlington Robinson: Richard Cory  
Edwin Arlington Robinson: Miniver Cheevey  
Edith Wharton: Author Bio  
Edith Wharton: Roman Fever | Week 2 Forum Essay 1 |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment Area</th>
<th>LO</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3    | Naturalism - Realism - Writing about Short Stories | LO-1 | **Reading(s) Assignment** **Naturalism/Realism**  
Stephen Crane: Author Bio  
Stephen Crane: The Open Boat  
Jack London: Author Bio  
Jack London: To Build a Fire  
Sarah Orne Jewett: Author Bio  
Sarah O. Jewett: A White Heron  
Willa Cather: Author Bio  
Willa Cather, Paul’s Case | Week 3 Forum |
| 4    | Modernism - New Criticism | LO-1 | **Reading(s) Assignment** **Modernism**  
Ernest Hemingway: Author Bio  
Ernest Hemingway: Big TwoHearted River: Part I and Part II  
EE Cummings: I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart)  
EE Cummings: Buffalo Bill’s defunct  
EE Cummings: In just spring  
T.S. Eliot: Author Bio  
T.S. Eliot: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock  
T.S. Eliot: The Hollow Men | Week 4 Forum  
Essay 2 |
| 5    | Harlem Renaissance - New Historicism | LO-1 | **Reading(s) Assignment** **Harlem Renaissance**  
Langston Hughes: Author Bio  
Langston Hughes: The Negro Speaks of Rivers | Project  
Week 5 Forum |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading and Writing about Non-Fiction and Film</th>
<th>LO-1</th>
<th>LO-5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading(s) Assignment Post-Modernism continued</strong></td>
<td>“Somewhere for Everyone” by John Grisham in <em>American Literature Since the Civil War.</em></td>
<td>Week 7 Forum Essay</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Post-Modernism</th>
<th>LO-1</th>
<th>LO-2</th>
<th>LO-3</th>
<th>LO-4</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Those Winter Sundays</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Post-Modernism Psychoanalytic Criticism</th>
<th>LO-4</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>“Minstrel Man” video by Langston Hughes/Favorite Poem Project</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>“Ye t Do I M arve l” video by Countee Cullen/Favorite Poem</strong></td>
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<th>8</th>
<th>MultiCulturalism</th>
<th>LO-1 LO-3 LO-5</th>
<th><strong>Reading(s) Assignment</strong></th>
<th>Week 8 Forum</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Thoughts</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Multi-Culturalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>From American Literature Since the Civil War:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jhumpa Lahiri: Author Bio</td>
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<td>Jhumpa Lahiri: The Third and Final Continent</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandra Cisneros: Author Bio</td>
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<td>Sandra Cisneros: Woman Hollering Creek</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alice Walker: Author Bio</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Walker: Everyday Use</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cathy Song: Author Bio</td>
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<td>Cathy Song: Picture Bride</td>
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**Policies**

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

**Writing Expectations**

Students are expected to have the background in grammar and mechanics necessary to complete the course. Please see the rubric presented earlier in the syllabus for detailed information regarding writing evaluation.

**Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the MLA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the MLA format.

**Late Assignments**
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Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), 😊

Disclaimer Statement
Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Academic Services (Online Library)

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
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- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

**Request a Library Guide for your course**
(http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

**Turnitin.com**

Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code.