

American Literature (ENGL 2326)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 (Composition I)

Course Description

A survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character.

Required Textbook and Materials

There is no major text required for this course. The instructor will provide information for required reading resources.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

Core Objectives

- A. Critical Thinking: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- B. Communication: To include the effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written and visual communication.
- C. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- D. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Course Outline

- A. The Basics of Literature
 - 1. Critical Analysis
 - Purpose, Audience
 - 2. Critical Approaches
 - 3. Research Methods
- B. Beginnings to 1700
- C. American Literature 1700-1820
- D. American Literature 1820-1865
- E. American Literature 1865-1914
- F. American Literature 1914-1945
- G. American Literature Since 1945

This course will cover the above listed periods in American Literature, with attention to each period's relevance and impact on American societal and cultural issues, as well as specific authors making significant contributions to each.

Course Requirements

- 1. Quizzes
- 2. Discussion Boards
- 3. Response Essay
- 4. One graded mid-term exam.
- 5. Research Paper
- 6. One graded final exam.

Grade Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Course Evaluation

Participation/Discussions	10%
Daily Work	40%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Research Paper	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
6. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

<http://www.blackboard.com/student-resources.aspx> A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the online resource: <http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

Student Code of Conduct Statement

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand, and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

Starfish

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

