

**Course:** AMERICAN LITERATURE II

**Department:** English

**Course Description:** An introduction to American literature, this course examines the major contributors to American literature, culture, and ideals from the Civil War to the present. Prerequisite: English Comp II (ENGL 102).

(American Literature to 1860 is not a prerequisite.) 3 Credits.

Course Outcomes	Learning Activities	Assessment Tools
Upon successful completion of this course students should:	To achieve these outcomes students may engage in the following activities:	Student learning may be assessed by:
1. Read a significant sampling of the writings that constitute the canon of American literature from 1860 toward the present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read assigned selections thoughtfully, both primary sources and secondary sources (including editorial introductions) (R<sup>1</sup>, CT)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quizzes and objective questions on readings.(CT, OC,)</li><li>Short essays and reaction papers (R, W)</li><li>Mid-term and Final Examinations on readings, with objective and essay questions. (W, CT)</li></ul>
2. Become familiar with or identify major writers, works, genres, trends, and styles from 1860 toward the present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attend class lectures regularly, taking notes particularly of information not found in texts. (CT, W)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quizzes and objective questions (CT, OC,)</li><li>Short essays and reaction papers (R, W)</li><li>Mid-term and Final Examinations on readings, with objective and essay questions. (W, CT)</li></ul>
3. Write papers responding critically to both primary and secondary texts, building on skills developed in English Composition II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use research skills from English Composition I and English Composition II to prepare papers demonstrating an interaction with one or more of the assigned readings.(R, CT, W)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Graded papers with citations. According to MLA format(W, CT)</li></ul>
4. Understand and analyze the relationships between American culture (historical, intellectual, social, political, economic) from 1860 onwards and individual writers and their works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Compare historical information from other classes, both social history and factual data, to understand writers of the period, in small and large group discussions,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Papers (CT, W)</li><li>Class discussion (CT, O)</li><li>Exams (CT, W)</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> Indicate the Core Competencies that apply to the outcomes activities and assessment tools: Critical Thinking (CT); Technology Skills (TS); Oral Communications (OC); Quantitative Skills (QS); Reading (R); Writing (W).

	<p>journals, and reaction papers. (CT, R, W, O)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss in class the implications of culture on writing. (OC, CT)</li> </ul>	
5. Discover a sense of how American identity is developed and exemplified through literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class discussions</li> <li>• Papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Papers (CT, W)</li> <li>• Class discussion (CT, O)</li> <li>• Exams</li> </ul>
6. Analyze and discuss texts, using literary terms and themes introduced in English Composition II, to guide and inform the aesthetic experience of reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class discussions</li> <li>• Papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of literary terms in assigned papers, and identification of thematic patterns in assigned readings. (R, CT, W)</li> </ul>
7. Appreciate the personal relevance and shared values of literature, and the depth of feeling that comes with recognition of the universal human condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect the readings with personal experiences, either through discussion or silent appreciation, either to validate or negate the writers' visions. (OC, CT,)</li> <li>• Connect the readings to contemporary conditions and events (R, W, O, CT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researched papers that move beyond plot summary to analysis and interpretation by the student. (CT, W)</li> </ul>
8. Strengthen Core Competencies in order to increase success in this and other courses and in the workplace.	Referenced above	Referenced above.