

OXFORD COLLEGE of Emory University

COURSE OUTLINE

English 251 - Survey of American Literature: 1865 - Present
Dr. Lucas Carpenter
Spring 2004 Semester

I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, objective tests, two formal essays (5 typed pages), a mid-term examination, and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To identify and examine the major themes and styles characteristic of the Realistic, Naturalistic, and Modern periods of American literature.
- B. To recognize and define the various literary-historical backgrounds against which American literature of these periods appear.
- C. To trace the continuing development of a uniquely "American" literature.
- D. To establish and explore the timeless concerns of the literature to be read in the course and how those concerns speak directly to the contemporary reader.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief quizzes which will precede the discussion of assigned literary works. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Two formal essays (5 typed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- D. Midterm examination composed of factual and essay questions devoted to the literature covered in the first half of the course.
- E. A comprehensive final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- F. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

III. Attendance Policy

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

IV. **Grading Practices**

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes and in-class writing	20%
Two formal essays	40%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	20%

V. **Textbook**

Anthology of American Literature, Vol. II, ed. George McMichael, et. al.

VI. **Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered**

January 14-16	Introductory
January 19-23	Twain, <u>Huckleberry Finn</u>
January 26-30	Chopin, <u>The Awakening</u> ; James, "The Turn of the Screw"
February 2-6	Crane, poems and "The Open Boat" London, "The Love of Life" Dreiser, "Free"
February 9-13	DuBois, <u>The Souls of Black Folks</u>
February 16-20	Poems of Robinson & Frost <u>1st Essay Due</u>
February 23-27	Dos Passos, <u>U.S.A.</u>
March 1-5	Poems of Pound and Eliot <u>Mid-term Examination</u>
March 8-12	Spring Break
March 15-19	Poems of Stevens and Williams
March 22-26	Huston, "The Gilded Six Bits" Poems by Toomer, Cullen, and Hughes
March 29-April 2	Fitzgerald, "Winter Dream" Hemingway, "Big Two-Hearted River"
April 5-9	Faulkner, "The Evening Sun", "A Rose for Emily"
April 12-16	Poems of Lowell and Ginsberg <u>2nd Essay Due</u>
April 19-23	Vonnegut, "Welcome to the Modern House" Pynchon, "Entropy"
April 26	Last Class
April 29 (2-5 pm)	Final Examination

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 - 2:00 pm

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what plagiarism is.