

Office Hours

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MW
2:30 – 3:00 p.m. TR

Official Course Description

English 221 is a survey of American Literature from late 19th Century to the present, which includes representative works from Literary Realism (1865-1914), the Modern Age (1914-1945), and the Postmodern Period (1946-Present). In addition to reading representative works of authors of these periods, students will address historical, social, political, cultural, and religious issues of the time. Reading assignments will include essays, novels, poetry, and short fiction of the time period, as well as criticism of the literature. Students will critically analyze these works in essays, exams, and research papers, as assigned. (CSU, UC) Prerequisite: ENGL 110 or ENGL 101 (now reconstituted as 110) with a grade of "C" or better.

Corrections to Content in Official Course Description: Postmodernity is not simply a “period” and modernity is not vast enough to be described as an “age.” (For instance, Chaucer’s work is postmodern though it was conceived long before the twentieth century.) Similarly, “realism” is not confined to a singular time and place, and none of the literary terms referenced in the description should be capitalized. Religious elements are cultural and political factors tied to specific historic events/conversations, so they are not treated as a discrete area of study. We will work on greater accuracy in language and depth of understanding this semester.

Texts

Baym, Nina and Robert S. Levine, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. 2: 1865 to the Present*. Shorter 8th ed. Vol. 2. New York: Norton, 2011. Print. 2 vols. [ISBN #9780393918878]
Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print. [ISBN #9781603290241]

Evaluation

While you will be given particular assignment criteria, it’s your responsibility to determine what level of effort or additional work is necessary for you to understand and fulfill the obligations of the course. Your thoroughness, insight, and intellectual curiosity this semester will shape the resulting grade and, more importantly, the understanding of literature you develop.

While you may consult the professor regarding the quality of your work or particular problems you experience, it’s up to you to monitor your own effort, progress, and points. Points will be awarded according to the following categories:

Analysis mini-essays – 30	Midterm Exam – 20
Annotated research bibliography – 10	Final Exam – 20
Research project abstract – 20	

Attendance

I expect that each of you will be in class, with a grasp of the reading assignment for the day, and ready to advance class discussion with insightful commentary. If you should miss a class, you must *contact a classmate* (NOT your professor) to request notes. Absence due to required attendance at an IVC event must be arranged in advance with the professor and will be excused. All other absences are unexcused. A student who has accumulated two consecutive unexcused absences is to be dropped from the course.

Ethics

No student may attempt to use this class or its assignments to advocate *discriminatory speech* or implement it as a weapon against other students, the professor, or parties/identities not present/represented. Recognizable, historically determined bigotry creates a toxic environment in the classroom and impedes and discourages sound, nuanced reason; self-critique; and, realistic assessment of subject. In other words, it is the antithesis of critical thinking and investigation—our mission at IVC and in this class.

Depending on type and severity, an instance of *plagiarism* may be addressed with an ungraded revision; a reduced/failing grade for the project; or disciplinary action from administrative staff. If you are at all uncertain on the issue of plagiarism, show me your source materials and explain your research methodology before submitting the essay. Do not solicit “help” from personal acquaintances. Instances of plagiarism can occur through contact with faculty unaware of professional ethics or plagiarism standards.

- *False Authorship*. Obtaining by any means another's work, and using that work in an essay/assignment presented for a grade. False authorship includes texts copied with minor changes/adjustments, translation from another language without acknowledgement, and patchwriting several sources into one document.
- *Misrepresentation of Source*. Distorting or altering the meaning of a source text in order to support a claim. Falsification of information about the source would also fall into the category of misrepresentation. Most often, students misrepresent the text because of personal bias or inadequate reading skills.
- *Unacknowledged collaboration*. Allowing too much outside influence or re-writing of the student's work. The individual's consent or cooperation is irrelevant.
- *Recycling*. Submitting all or part of a text that was prepared for another assignment/course.
- *Insufficient Citation*. Including quotations or paraphrased content from another's work with faulty, or no, citation. Direct quotations also require quotation marks or, when appropriate, block quote spacing.

Tentative Schedule

- January 21 Course description
- January 28 "American Literature 1865-1914"
Walt Whitman: "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
Emily Dickinson: [280]; [508]; [435]; [1129]
Mark Twain: TBD*
- February 4 Ambrose Bierce: "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"
Henry James: "The Beast in the Jungle"
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick: "The Beast in the Closet: James and the Writing of Homosexual Panic"*
- February 11 Kate Chopin: "The Story of an Hour"; "The Storm"
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: "The Yellow Wall-paper"
Willa Cather: "The Sculptor's Funeral"
- February 18 Booker T. Washington: "Up from Slavery"
Zitkala Ša: "The Soft-Hearted Sioux"; "Why I am a Pagan"*
"American Literature 1914-1945"
- February 25 Amy Lowell: "The Captured Goddess"; "Venus Transiens" (a Keats poem to show influence on Lowell*)
Ezra Pound: excerpt from "A Retrospect"
Wyndham Lewis: "Vorticist Manifesto"*
Gertrude Stein: "A Box"; "A Plate"
- March 4 Wallace Stevens: "Sunday Morning"; "Of Modern Poetry"
William Carlos Williams: "Portrait of a Lady"; "To Elsie"
T.S. Eliot: "The Waste Land"
E.E. Cummings: "next to of course god america I"; "i sing of Olaf glad and big"
- March 11 **Midterm Exam**
- March 18 Eugene O'Neill: *Long Day's Journey into Night*
Katherine Anne Porter: "Flowering Judas"
- March 25 Zora Neale Hurston: "The Gilded Six-Bits"
Langston Hughes: "I, Too"; "Mulatto"; "Note on Commercial Theatre"; "Democracy"
Claude McKay: "If We Must Die"; "America"
Richard Wright: "The Man Who Was Almost a Man"
- April 1 William Faulkner: "Barn Burning"
Ernest Hemingway: "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"
John Steinbeck: "The Leader of the People"
- April 8 **Annotated Research Bibliography Submission**
"American Literature since 1945"

Eudora Welty: "Petrified Man"
Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman*

April 15 James Baldwin: excerpt from *Going to Meet the Man*
Flannery O'Connor: "Good Country People"

April 22 SPRING BREAK

April 29 **Research Project Abstract Submission**

Anne Sexton: "The Starry Night"; "Sylvia's Death"
Adrienne Rich: "Storm Warnings"; "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law" (Yeats's "Leda and the Swan");
"Transcendental Etude"
Toni Morrison: "Recitatif"
Sylvia Plath: "Morning Song"; "Lady Lazarus"; "Daddy"
Marge Piercy: TBD
Maxine Hong Kingston: excerpt from *The Woman Warrior*
Dorothy Allison: excerpt from *Stubborn Girls and Mean Stories*

May 6 Philip Roth: "Defender of the Faith"
Thomas Pynchon: "Entropy"
Sherman Alexie: "Pawn Shop"; "Crow Testament"
Jhumpa Lahiri: "Sexy"

May 13 **Final Exam**

*Reading to be provided by professor.

ADDENDUM: GENERAL POLICY CONTENT FROM IVC

Student Learning Outcomes (ENGL 221)

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Synthesize and evaluate American literature (including genre, themes, and historical contexts) from the American Renaissance to the present. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO5)
- Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics. (ILO3)
- Access and interpret literary texts using scholarly sources (drawn from the library catalog, electronic databases, and the internet) as support. Evaluate publishers/authors. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- Perform literary analysis featuring close reading skill, coherent interpretation, thoughtful interaction with themes/content, and extension of literary text/s. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3)

Course Objectives & Minimum Standards for Grade of “C” (ENGL 221)

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate; both orally and in writing, the ability to read and comprehend major works of American Literature from the late 19th Century to the present day.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic methods and techniques of literary analysis through discussion, quizzes, group work, and writing.
- Identify and interpret imported intellectual traditions, where applicable, in American literature.
- Demonstrate through quizzes, group work, discussion, and writing an understanding of the elements and devices of most of the American literary genres: poetry, drama, novel, short fiction, and non-fiction.
- Name, describe and interpret, both orally and in writing, major works by leading writers of American Literature from the post Civil War period through the present day.
- Demonstrate through quizzes, group work, discussion and writing how diverse cultural, social, political, ethnic, and religious movements in America in the time periods discussed have been reflected in key literacy works and how related issues and ideas have been handled by various American writers.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as “excused” absences.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one’s own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly “cite a source,” you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) use of a commercial term paper service.

Disabled Student Programs and Services

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>