

English 214: American Literature II
TR 11:00-12:15
Spring 2021

Professor Julie Tharp
Virtual Office and Classroom
Zoom Office Hours by arrangement
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Required Texts

Norton Anthology of American Literature 1865 to Present, shorter 9th edition
Beloved

Course Description

This course will provide you with an introduction to literature written in English within this country from 1865 to present. We will be reading, discussing and writing together as we explore the literary efforts of diverse writers and the roles they have played in shaping American culture.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts or cultural artifacts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition (such as the search for truth and meaning, the confrontation with suffering and mortality, or the struggle for justice, equality, and human dignity).
2. Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than one's own.

Course Assignments

- 1) Reading: you will be responsible for finishing the readings by the given due dates and you will be expected to participate in discussions on those readings.
- 2) Participation in four Canvas discussions. (These will help you to prepare for the exams.)
- 3) Paired facilitation on one literary text—You will make a short presentation to the class and lead us through a group discussion on questions of your design over one of the assigned readings.
- 4) Three essay exams: You will write three timed essay exams covering the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend the zoom classes to the best of their ability. Failure to attend will impact your performance in the class. Students who are absent more than one or two days at a time should communicate with me as soon as possible.

Grading

A—Excellent work—You thoroughly understand the material, have control over your expression, and may even offer new insights into the readings.

B—Above Average work—You have a clear grasp of the subject matter and can organize your thoughts about it.

C—Average work—You are capable of summarizing the readings and lectures.

D—Below Average work—You cannot adequately summarize the readings or lectures and connect them. You may also lack adequate control over your expression.

F—Failing work—You fail to grasp major concepts in the course and/or do not understand what you have read.

Course Outline

Jan. 26--Introduction—"How to Tell a Story"

28—Mark Twain—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Feb. 2—*Huck Finn*

4—*Huck Finn*—**Canvas Discussion**

9—Henry James—"Daisy Miller"

11—Henry James—"The Real Thing"

16—Sarah Orne Jewett, "A White Heron" and Mary Wilkins Freeman, "A New England Nun"

18—Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" and "The Storm"

23—Voices from Native America

25—Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*, selected chapters **Canvas Discussion**

Mar. 2—Stephen Crane, "The Open Boat" and Jack London, "To Build a Fire"

4—Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

9—Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, "Impressions of an Indian Childhood"

11—**First Exam**

16—Willa Cather, "Neighbor Rosicky"

18—Robert Frost—**Canvas Discussion**

Spring Break March 20-28

Mar. 30—Susan Glaspell, "Trifles"

Apr. 1—William Carlos Williams and T.S. Eliot

6—Zora Neale Hurston, "Sweat" and "How it Feels to be Colored Me"

8—Jean Toomer and Langston Hughes

13—Richard Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man"

15—William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"

20—Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty

22—Tennessee Williams

27—**Second Exam**

29—Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

May 4—*Beloved* **Canvas Discussion**

6—Theodore Roethke and Sylvia Plath

11—Billy Collins and Rita Dove

13—Sandra Cisneros, “Woman Hollering Creek” and Gloria Anzaldua, “How to Tame a Wild Tongue”

Final Exam