English 3355.001—Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century American Literature
Spring 2014
T 7:00-9:30 PM
Island Hall 157

Instructor: Dr. Dale Pattison
Office: Faculty Center 255
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-9:50; 11:00-11:50 and by appointment
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Course Description

This course confronts the profound literary, cultural, and philosophical transformations occurring in the U.S. from the late nineteenth century into the period of modernism. The novels, plays, short stories, and poetry on the course syllabus address the massive cultural shifts inspired by Reconstruction, the First World War, the Roaring Twenties, and finally the Great Depression. Students will gain a deep understanding of the major literary movements of this period, which include realism, literary modernism, and the Harlem Renaissance.

Course Texts (Hard Copies Required. No E-Books)

Loos, Anita. Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.
Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God.
Larsen, Nella. Passing.

Course Grading

The course will be structured on a 1000-point scale. The scores you receive on your assignments, exams, blackboard postings, and participation will be totaled at the end of the semester, and your final grade will be calculated based on this score. The points will be distributed as follows:

- Writing Assignment #1: 200 points
- Writing Assignment #2: 300 points
- Blackboard Postings: 100 points (25 points each)
- Participation: 100 points
- Exam 1: 150 points
- Exam 2: 150 points

Participation will be calculated based on class attendance and participation in class
discussions. Students will be expected to bring their text to class every day, having read the assignment due for that day.

Course Objectives

1. To examine the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts by reading texts by authors from a range of cultural backgrounds.
2. To explore the distinctive characteristics of realism and modernism.
3. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.
4. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
5. To use writing as a tool for learning.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete ENGL 3355 will be able to:
1. Recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;
2. Respond critically to literary works.
3. Communicate their ideas through cogent critical analysis of the course texts.

Class Policies

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
The University will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of intellectual or academic dishonesty. Violations of academic honesty will be processed under the Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases 13.02.99.C3.01 (see http://ses.tamucc.edu/grievances.html and the Student Code of Conduct http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu//assets/2013-2014StudentHandbook.pdf). All cases of academic misconduct are recorded in the student's file. Consequences are determined by the faculty member and/or the Academic Integrity Hearing Panel. It is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Students sometimes commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes

- using the work of another as your own,
- downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- using resource materials without correct documentation,
- using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation, or
- turning in a researched paper without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

Be aware that there are many ways to plagiarize. English 1301 and 1302 courses and the Writing Center at CASA will review rules of academic citation. Information academic citation is available at the Purdue University's OWL: http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/ and/or from our local Writing Center at CASA.
Grade Appeals Process: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, clu.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

Policy on class attendance: Students are allowed a maximum of four (4) absences. All absences count equally, irrespective of the cause, and students who exceed four absences will be penalized one letter grade on their final grade for every absence over the limit.

• Note: Students who participate in university-sanctioned activities should meet with me during the first week of classes.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please be aware that you are allowed 6 drops in your entire undergraduate career, so these decisions must be made carefully.

If I am absent: If I need to cancel class because my car broke down, or if I am ill, etc., I will try to get someone to post a sign. I also will try to email you all before class. However, if you come to class and I am not here by the time 15 minutes has elapsed (from when class is to start), please assume that class is canceled.

Late Writing Projects and Exams: All papers are due on the date listed on the syllabus. Students submitting their papers after this time will lose one letter grade for every class period that the paper is late. Students must submit their assignments via the link provided on Blackboard. Students who are absent for the midterm or final exam will receive a zero for the exam. Makeup exams will not be given.

Resources

1. Writing Center: The Writing Center of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi provides free help for students at any stage of the writing process. Writing Center consultants are trained to work with writers one-on-one to help them find ideas, organize their thoughts, cite sources, and succeed at all aspects of the writing task. The Writing Center works closely with faculty across campus to understand the writing projects they assign and to help students meet the expectations of those assignments. The Writing Center is located in the Center for Academic Student Achievement in CASA 112 (formerly Glasscock Center). Both drop-in and scheduled appointments are available. For more information see http://casa.tamu.edu/wc.php.
2. **Notice to Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. You can also visit their website at [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/) and contact them via e-mail at disability.services@tamucc.edu. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

3. **Academic Advising Center:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Procedures for Posting to Blackboard**

For those of you new to this system, Blackboard is an interactive forum that facilitates communication in the form of discussion boards, course documents, email, etc. For this class, I will post our writing assignment sheets, supplemental course readings, and any other items of interest to our course page. As noted above, you will be expected to contribute a minimum of four times to the discussion board, which I facilitate and monitor throughout the semester. Your posting should contain between 200 and 400 words and should critically engage the texts, following the prompt I set up for each posting. I want you to cite the text as often as possible—at least twice in each posting—in order to support your claims.

**Blackboard 9.1:** To log into Blackboard, go to: [http://bb9.tamucc.edu](http://bb9.tamucc.edu). You must have a NET ID (also known as an Active Directory account) to log in. For instructions on how to get this account and more information about using Blackboard, go to: [http://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html](http://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html). If you need additional help at any time to access, download, or print course materials on Blackboard, please contact the Island Online (IOL) Help Desk by telephone at (361) 825-2825 or by email at iolsupport@tamucc.edu.

**Reminder to English Majors**

As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should **keep a copy** of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

WEEK 1—January 28th
Thursday: Class Introduction; Syllabus Overview; Reading Assignments

WEEK 2—February 4th
Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (C: 108-235)

WEEK 3—February 11th
Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (C: 235-294)
Henry James, “Daisy Miller” (C: 391-429)
BLACKBOARD POSTING #1 DUE

WEEK 4: February 18th
Booker T. Washington (C: 665-687) and W.E.B. DuBois (C: 894-910)
Mary Wilkins Freeman, “The Revolt of ‘Mother’” (C: 635-645) and Edith Wharton, “Roman Fever” (C: 843-852)

WEEK 5: February 25th
Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat” (C: 1000-1016) and T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (D: 1577-1580) and “The Waste Land” (D: 1587-1599) and Robert Frost, Poems (D: 1389-1410) and William Carlos Williams, Poems (D: 1464-1477)
BLACKBOARD POSTING #2 DUE

WEEK 6: March 4th
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE

WEEK 7: March 11th
SPRING BREAK

WEEK 8: March 18th
Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

WEEK 9: March 25th
Susan Glaspell, *Trifles* (D: 1412-1421)
MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 10: April 1st
BLACKBOARD POSTING #3 DUE
WEEK 11: April 8th
Langston Hughes, Poems (D: 2027-2037)
Nella Larson, *Passing*

WEEK 12: April 15th
Claude McKay, Poems (D: 1686-1690) and Countee Cullen, Poems (2061-2065)
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1-80)

WEEK 13: April 22nd
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (81-193)

BLACKBOARD POSTING #4 DUE

WEEK 14: April 29th

WEEK 15: May 6th
WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE
LAST DAY OF CLASS

FINAL EXAM given during scheduled exam period