Course Description

This course gives a broad overview of American literature from 1900 to the present, examining fiction, poetry, drama, and graphic novels alongside the major sociopolitical trends and movements of the period. Dramatic shifts in economics, politics, and philosophical inquiry in the twentieth century engendered new ways of understanding the world in which we live, and this course asks students to contextualize these issues within and alongside literature.

Required Texts

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Loos, Anita. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.*
Nathanael West. *The Day of the Locust*

In addition to these texts, some of the required readings are available for download on Blackboard. When we cover these readings in class, students should either bring hard copies or bring a laptop or tablet on which they may access the readings. **Cell phones are not permitted for accessing course readings in class.**

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 cultures and nationalities.
2. To explore the distinctive characteristics of modernism and postmodernism
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. Participate in debates that are grounded in critical theory

Course Grading

The course will be structured on a 1000-point scale. The scores you receive on your assignments, exams, discussion 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: 200 points
- Midterm Exam: 200 points
- Final Exam: 200 points
- Blackboard Discussions: 100 points (25 points each)
- Participation: 100 points

Participation will be calculated based on class attendance, participation in class discussions, and preparedness for class discussions. Reading quizzes may be factored into this grade as well. If a student is absent for a class period, he/she is not participating. Students will be expected to bring their text to class every day, having read the assignment due for that day.

Class Policies

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in severe disciplinary action.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the
ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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 fifty points on their final grade for every absence over the limit.
- If you are unable to attend class, you do not need to email me to explain the circumstances. You should contact another student in class and copy his/her notes.
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 or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. April 5th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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.

Policy on Laptops and Cell Phones: Cell phones are not permitted in class. If a student is found using a cell phone, they will be counted absent for that day. Laptops may only be used to access a reading posted on Blackboard.

Late Writing Projects: 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.

Blackboard Grade Center: You will see grades for assignments, exams, and blackboard discussion postings appear on Blackboard during the semester. While these scores may be useful in tracking your grade throughout the semester, they should NOT be used to calculate your final grade. Several point categories will not appear on Blackboard (such as Participation and Reading Quizzes), and only I will have access to these scores. If you are ever concerned about your grade, visit me in my office and we can discuss the issue in person.

Resources

Disabilities Accommodations
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.
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 at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**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.

**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.

**Course Calendar**

**Unit One: The Modernist Short Story**

January 15
- Introductions and Syllabus Overview

January 17
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: “Babylon Revisited” (675)

January 22
- Ernest Hemingway: “Hills Like White Elephants” (Blackboard)

January 24
• Sherwood Anderson, “Hands” (265)
• **Blackboard Posting #1 Due 10:00 a.m.**

January 29
• Edith Wharton, “Roman Fever” (Blackboard)

**Unit Two—Modernist Poetry**

January 31

February 5
• Robert Frost, Selected Poems **and** William Carlos Williams, Selected Poems

February 7
• Langston Hughes, Poems (869-880)

February 12
• Claude McKay, Poems (482-484) **and** Countee Cullen, Poems (893-897)
• **Blackboard Posting #2 Due 10:00 a.m.**

**Unit Three—The Modernist Novel**

February 14
• Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1-33)

February 19
• Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (34-109)

February 21
• Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (110-153)

February 26
• Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (154-193)

February 28
• Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1-42)

March 5
• Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (43-130)

March 7
• Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (131-165)
• **Writing Assignment #1 Due 10:00 a.m. (Upload to Blackboard)**

March 12, 14
• **SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS**

March 19
• **Midterm Exam—Bring Blue Book**

**Unit Four—Modernist Theater**

March 21
• Susan Glaspell, *Trifles* (D: 253-262)

March 26
• Eugene O’Neill, *Long Day’s Journey into Night* (400-440)

March 28
• Eugene O’Neill, *Long Day’s Journey into Night* (441-454)

April 2
• **Blackboard Posting #3 Due 10:00 a.m.**

**Unit Five—Postmodernism**

April 4
• Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust* (59-101)

April 9
• Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust* (101-185)

April 11
• Thomas Pynchon, “Entropy” (Blackboard)

April 16
• Toni Morrison, “Recitatif” (Blackboard)

April 18
• Alice Walker, “Everyday Use” (Blackboard)
• **Blackboard Posting #4 Due 10:00 a.m.**

April 23
• Adrienne Rich, Selected Poems (Blackboard)
April 25
  • Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery” (Blackboard)

April 30
  • Last Day of Class—Review for Final Exam
  • Writing Assignment #2 Due 10:00 a.m. (Upload to Blackboard)

Final Exam: Thursday, May 9, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.