

Course discipline/number/title: ENGL 2274: Modern American Literature

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): ENGL 1118 or ENGL 1918 recommended; college level reading and writing skills.
4. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 6/Humanities - the Arts, Literature and Philosophy, Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility

This course is a survey of the literature and historical contexts in America from the post-Civil War era to contemporary times. Special attention is paid to the developing ideas of American identities and political realities as expressed through the literature.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): May, 2016

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Information on the lives of authors from 1860's through contemporary times
2. Readings of representative American essays, poetry, fiction, and drama
3. Literature of the Civil War
4. Reconstruction
5. American citizenship and political motivations in literature
6. Innovations in form in the twentieth century
7. Major movements and themes of twentieth century literature:
  - a) High modernism, expatriatism, and alienation
  - b) Regionalism
  - c) Jazz
  - d) Urbanization, mass culture, and technological developments
  - e) The Harlem renaissance
  - f) The Great Depression and socialist movements
  - g) The women's movement
  - h) The civil rights era
  - i) The Native American Renaissance
  - j) Postmodernism

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

1. Understand literary texts as expressions of individual and human values within historical and cultural concepts.
2. Formulate and defend a thesis about a literary work through close textual analysis.
3. Recognize the fundamental elements of literary discourse and explain their significance.
4. Examine the different notions of American identity.
5. Understand significant literary and historical developments in America.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility: The student will be able to:

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
3. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:

May include some or all of the following:

1. Essay exams

- F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Continued. . .
2. Research papers
  3. Quizzes
  4. Objective exams
  5. Group projects
  6. Presentations
- G. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:  
Critical Thinking. Students will think systematically and explore information thoroughly before accepting or formulating a position or conclusion.
- H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None