

English 322-01  
**Professor Julianne Newmark**  
**Spring 2012**  
Survey of American Literature, 1865-present

Mondays and Wednesdays: 11:00-12:15  
Office Phone: 505-835-5901  
Room: Weir 208  
Email: [jnewmark@nmt.edu](mailto:jnewmark@nmt.edu)  
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:45 -1:45 p.m. and by appointment

ABOUT OUR COURSE:

Welcome to American Literature. In this course, we will conduct a survey of the literature of the United States, from the year 1865 to the present. As students in this course, you will be expected to develop a solid understanding of the American literary tradition based on our course readings,, on the historical context that I will provide you in lecture, on the discussions we have as a class, and on the analyses of texts that you do individually in your essays and exams.

We will begin our course by inquiring into the development of “American Literature” as disciplinary area. Why do university students study American Literature? How does a “national literature” develop? How does a nation know when it has “national literature”? What if the members of this national body are unequal, live in radically different geographical areas, practice different religions, and even have different citizenship statuses? These issues have always challenged the idea of a cohesive America. How, then, do we envision a cohesive American national literary tradition? What features mark American literature and distinguish it from other national literatures? These are the questions with which we will begin our study this semester and to which we will return frequently throughout the term.

POLICIES:

**Required texts:**

- *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*, Volume Two, 1865 to Present. c. 2008
- A style-guide of your choice

**Required work and grading scale:**

Your grade will be based on various factors, including attendance, participation, and completion and quality of written work. You will be expected to participate in daily class discussions, occasional online discussions, and occasional group work in class. You will write two formal papers and complete two exams.

Essay one (four to five pages)	90
Essay two (four to five pages)	90
Midterm Exam	75
Final Exam	150
Student textual analysis	20
Quizzes	35
<u>Participation and attendance</u>	<u>40</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>500</i>

**Grading scale:**

A	465 and above
A-	450-464
B+	435-449
B	415-434
B-	400-414
C+	385-399
C	365-384
C-	350-364

**Class Participation:**

You will be evaluated on your ability and willingness to participate in classroom discussions and other activities. Keep this in mind and be sure to be alert in class, prepared for class work, and engaged in our subject matter.

**Student Textual Analysis:**

Once during the term, each student will offer an analysis of a reading of the student's choice (by the scheduled author for the class-day's discussion). This brief presentation must also incorporate discussion of one or two pieces of pertinent per-reviewed literary criticism of the author's work along with the student's own reading (i.e. analysis) of the text. These days are marked on the course calendar by the initials "STA."

**Attendance and Tardiness:**

If you miss more than three classes, you will be asked to drop the course or you will receive a failing grade. There are, of course, extraordinary situations in which absences might be excused. A stay in the hospital, for example, is what I would call "extraordinary."

I do take attendance into consideration in the calculation of your final grade, along with the above-mentioned factor of participation. Be sure to attend all class meetings and to be on time. Every three days that you are tardy (more than five minutes) count as one "absent" day. I consider this syllabus, incidentally, as your contract with me, and mine with you. If you choose to continue in this class, after reading this syllabus, I expect that you will abide by the requirements of this course.

**Quizzes:**

There will be a series of unannounced reading quizzes throughout the term.

**Late Papers:**

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of our class time on the day the assignment is due. After this time, for each calendar day an assignment is late, I will deduct one letter grade (meaning, if the paper begins at an "A" and is one day late, I will begin grading it from an "A-" -- etcetera). Again, extraordinary circumstances might excuse a late assignment, but these are rare. I will not accept emailed versions of papers; you must come to class, or arrange to see me in my office, to turn in your paper-copy of your assignment. *I reserve the right not to accept late papers.*

**Courteousness and Cell Phones:**

We will be covering some sensitive topics in this class. So, I will expect you to behave appropriately and be open to different opinions. Above all, be courteous to your classmates. One sign of courteousness is that you set your cell phone to **vibrate** before entering class. If there are repeated problems with your cell phone, I will ask you to leave the classroom for the day. You will take an absence that day. Turning the phone to vibrate, though, is important because if all phones are set to vibrate, we can still get emergency notices from NMT. The Campus Police phone number is 575-835-5434.

**Equal Access:**

New Mexico Tech is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities. Qualified individuals who require reasonable accommodations are invited to make their needs known to the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (OCDS) as soon as possible. To schedule an appointment, please call 835-6619.

**Counseling Services**

New Mexico Tech offers mental health and substance abuse counseling through the Office of Counseling and Disability Services. The confidential services are provided free of charge by licensed professionals. To schedule an appointment, please call 835-6619.

**Plagiarism:**

In our course, I will review the standards of correct citation, academic honesty, and intellectual property. After this information has been presented to you in class, you are responsible for it and cannot claim ignorance as a defense against an accusation of academic dishonesty. You will need to quote directly from literary texts, and appropriately cite these texts, in both of your papers and in your exams. Each of your papers must have a Works Cited page.

Plagiarism, in very general terms, is the use of someone else's words or ideas without proper citation. The style guide *Everyday Writer*, which you may have from English 111 or 112, includes information about plagiarism. I suggest that you become familiar with pages 168 and 173-175 and commit to memory the information regarding plagiarism that I provide for you in class. All other good style guides provide detailed information on avoiding plagiarism. Also, the NMT library offers a handy website addressing many plagiarism issues and provides advice on avoiding plagiarism: <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~nmtlib/INFO/ORef/plagiarism.html>

### **Essay Format:**

All work that is to be handed in must be typed, double-spaced, printed on white paper in black ink, and must use twelve-point font (preferably Times New Roman). If your paper does not conform to these stylistic requirements, I will hand it back to you without a grade and you will be required to reformat in and will suffer a late-paper penalty. Again, your papers must include correct text citations and a Works Cited page.

### **Course calendar:**

#### Week one:

Wednesday, January 18

#### Reading/Assignment Due:

Course introduction, review syllabus. Civil-War America to the Turn-of-the-Century introductory reading, handout.

#### Week two:

Monday, January 23

Discuss "American Literature" as a field of study

Wednesday, January 35

Higginson, James

#### Week three:

Monday, January 30

Howells, Garland

Wednesday, February 1 (STA)

Jewett, Chopin

#### Week four:

Monday, February 6

Essay One assigned  
Catch-up, discuss essay strategies.

Wednesday, February 8

Gilman, Cahan

#### Week five:

Monday, February 13 (STA)

Dunbar ("We Wear the Mask"), Cather

Wednesday, February 15

Martí, Winnemucca Hopkins (from Chapter 1)

#### Week six:

Monday, February 20

ESSAY ONE DUE  
Zitkala-Sa, Washington (Chapter 14)

Wednesday, February 22 (STA)

Du Bois ("Of Our Spiritual Strivings"), Adams ("Preface")

#### Week seven:

Monday, February 27

Exam preparation day.

Wednesday, February 29

MIDTERM EXAM

Week eight:

Monday, March 5

Introduction to American Literature 1914-1945 section

Wednesday, March 7

Lowell, Johnson

Week nine:

Monday, March 12

SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 14

SPRING BREAK

Week ten:

Monday, March 19

Hughes, Crane

Wednesday, March 21 (STA)

Selected poems: Lowell, Frost, Sandburg, Williams, H.D., Fujita, McKay, Crane, Hughes, and Cullen. Poem titles to be announced.

Week eleven:

Monday, March 26

Poetry continued

Wednesday, March 28

Essay Two assigned  
Catch-up, discuss essay strategies.

Week twelve:

Monday, April 2

Introduction, The Great War to the Great Depression  
Hurston, Dos Passos

Wednesday, April 4 (STA)

Porter, Hurston

Week thirteen:

Monday, April 9

Toomer ("Blood Burning Moon"), Dos Passos ("1919")

Wednesday, April 11

ESSAY TWO DUE  
Faulkner ("That Evening Sun"), Hemingway ("Big Two Hearted River")

Week fourteen:

Monday, April 16

Since 1945, From Modernism to Postmodernism, Introduction  
Roethke ("Root Cellar")

Wednesday, April 18 (STA)

Ellison, Malamud

Week fifteen:

Monday, April 23

Poetry: Ginsburg, Plath, Lorde. Poem titles to be announced.

Wednesday, April 25 (STA)

Anzaldúa, Dove (TBA), Alexie  
Course evaluations.

Week sixteen:

Monday, April 30

Exam preparation day.

Wednesday, May 2

FINAL EXAM