

**English 2235: American Literature II: 1865 to the Present
Spring 2001 / Section 1**

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Office Hours:

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. / M, W, Th, F
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. / Th
- Other times by appointment

Class Meetings:

- 1:00-1:50 p.m. / M, W, F / Humanities 223

Course Description:

The focus for this course will be the literature of the United States from the Civil War to the present. More specifically, we will cover outstanding authors and works from the literary periods of Realism and Naturalism (c.a. 1865-1914), Modernism (c.a. 1914-1945), and Post-Modernism (c.a. 1945-present). We will also consider some of the historical, social, and political forces that shaped the literature of these periods and our perceptions of it. Readings will include a variety of genres—primarily short fiction and poetry, but also two novels and one play—and works from writers of different races and religions will be included for a more comprehensive view of “American literature.”

Course Objectives:

- To read, discuss, analyze, and interpret selected works of American literature from approximately 1865 to the present.
- To understand the literary movements of Romanticism, Local Color, Regionalism, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism.
- To understand the important historical events and socio-political movements from the 1860's to the present.
- To understand how the selected works of American literature studied reflect the characteristics and values of the people and times in which they were written.
- To present – through activities such as group discussions, journals, response papers, critical essays, reviews, and examinations – personal interpretations and evaluations of the selected works of American literature.
- To appreciate the ways in which literature helps us understand ourselves, other people, and the world around us.

Textbook and Materials:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (shorter 5th edition, 1999)
- *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather (Dover Thrift Edition)
- Access to the course website: <www.ar.cc.mn.us/stankey>
- Access to the textbook website: <www.wwnorton.com/naal>

Requirements:

- Completion of all assigned readings. The average daily reading load is 20-30 pages.
- Attendance at all class sessions. Each class session will be primarily devoted to discussing the assigned literature. If you do not attend, you cannot learn from and participate in the class discussions.
- Participation in all class discussions. This is not a lecture course; instead, we will use small groups and/or class discussions during each class session. Participation includes active listening, note taking, and sharing your ideas, opinions, and questions with the rest of us – both the quantity and quality of your participation will be considered. If you miss more than six (6) class meetings, the participation portion of your final grade will be an “F.”
- Completion of all five (5) in-class examinations. The exams on the fiction will be essay; the exams on the poetry will be identification and essay.
- Completion of both (2) critical essays. Each essay will be based on the literature assigned and will be 3-4 pages (900-1200 words) in length.
- Completion of weekly, unannounced reading quizzes and responses. Quizzes will normally include 10 short-answer questions; responses will normally be about one paragraph long. Unannounced quizzes and responses cannot be made up if you are absent.

Evaluation:

Your final course grade will be calculated based on your five examinations, your two critical essays, your quizzes and in-class responses, and your class participation; each component is weighted equally.

Policies and Information

Attendance: Please notify me immediately if you must miss more than one class due to a medical or family emergency; we can then keep you current with the class or determine if an incomplete is warranted. Note that excessive absences will adversely affect your final grade.

Incompletes: Incompletes will only be granted to students who have a documented medical or family emergency in the last two weeks of the semester. These students must have completed all the other work for the course with an average grade of “C” or better, must not have more than six (6) absences, and must demonstrate the ability and willingness to complete the work before the third week of the following semester or summer session.

Plagiarism: Knowingly presenting another person’s ideas or writing as your own without clear, correct, and accurate citation and documentation will result in an “F” for that assignment and notification of the appropriate college officials—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Class Disruptions: Any disruptive behavior—including arriving late, leaving early, or having private conversations—which adversely affects the teaching and learning in this class will be handled on an individual basis and, if serious enough, may involve the dean of educational services—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Paper Trails: For each essay you submit, you should also collect all the work you did in the process of writing the essay—all your prewriting, in-class writing, photocopies and/or printouts of research sources, notes, outlines, and drafts. If I ask you to submit these things in support of your essay and you can not produce them, I might assume the essay is not your own work, and the essay will fail.

Paper Format: All final drafts must be double-spaced, word-processed, and conform to the formatting directions given in class, including instructions for in-text and end-of-text citation and documentation conventions.

Late Work: Exam and paper dates are listed on the course schedule. Missed exams cannot be made up, unless you notify me before the exam begins. Late papers will not receive written comments and the grade will be lowered one letter; after one week, the grade will be an “F.” However, all essays and exams must be completed to pass the course.

Record Keeping: Please make back-up copies of all your work, and keep all essays and exams returned to you. If questions about grades arise, you will need to produce the original documents.

Conferences: Please see me during my office hours or schedule an appointment with me if you have questions or problems at any time during the semester.

Academic Support Center: The Academic Support Center (ASC), located on the second floor of the College Services (CS) building, offers free, trained writing tutors who work with student writers at any stage in the writing process to improve their writing. Please meet with a writing tutor early in the term so that you can discover how helpful the tutors can be to you.

Note: The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change, and changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for any changes in deadlines or assignments announced during any class you miss.