

Anoka Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids Campus
English 2235: American Literature II: 1865 to the Present
Spring Semester 2003 / Section 1

Professor: Scott Stankey
Office: Humanities 131
Phone: 763-422-3556 (voice mail)
Fax: 763-422-3341
Email: scott.stankey@anokaramsey.edu

Office Hours: M, W, Th, F – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
M – 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Class Meetings:

- Section 1 – 1:00-1:50 p.m. / M, W, F in T 208

Textbook, Materials, Websites:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (Package 2; Volumes C, D, and E; 6th edition; 2002)
- Student I.D. / Library Card
- A class notebook or loose-leaf paper
- A two-pocket folder
- A college-level dictionary
- Course Website: <www.ar.cc.mn.us/stankey>
- Textbook Website: <www.wwnorton.com/naal>

Course Description:

This semester, we will devote roughly a third of the course to each of the three major literary “periods” in American literature since the Civil War: 1865-1914 (Realism and Naturalism), 1914-1945 (Modernism), and 1945 to the Present (Post-Modernism). Incidentally, these three literary periods correspond to the three-volume textbook we will be using. While the majority of readings this semester will be short stories and poems, we will also read two longer novels, The Awakening and As I Lay Dying, two plays, Trifles and A Streetcar Named Desire, and several works of “creative non-fiction” (e.g. autobiographies and memoirs). Hopefully, as we analyze, interpret, and evaluate the literary works, we will also gain a sense of how American literature since the Civil War not only develops and evolves over time, but also helps us to understand the major issues confronting writers since 1865.

Course Objectives:

- Read, discuss, analyze, and interpret selected works of American literature from approximately 1865 to the present.
- Understand the literary trends and characteristics of Realism, Local Color, Regionalism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism.
- Place selected American authors within one or more literary movements.
- Understand the important historical events and socio-political movements from the 1860’s to the present.
- Understand how the selected works of American literature studied reflect the characteristics and values of the people and times in which they were written.

- Analyze and discuss specific works of literature using appropriate literary terminology to describe the technical elements of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
- Select and apply a critical approach to interpret, analyze, and evaluate selected works of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
- 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.
- Appreciate the ways in which literature helps us understand ourselves, other people, and the world around us.

Course Requirements:

- Completion of all assigned readings before each class. The reading load averages 30 pages per class session. If you do not complete the reading assignment for each class session, you will not be able to follow the discussion and participate in class.
- 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. In addition, the class will be more meaningful and enjoyable if we all participate in discussions. Participation includes active listening, note taking, and contributing to group work and class discussions. Be prepared and willing to share your ideas, opinions, and questions with the rest of us. Perfect attendance without voluntary participation will earn a “C” for the participation portion of your final grade. If you miss more than six (6) class meetings, the participation portion of your final grade will be an “F.”
- Completion of weekly, unannounced reading quizzes and/or informal writing assignments. Quizzes will normally include 10 identification or short-answer questions; other exercises may include in-class writings, group work, and take-home responses. Quizzes and in-class work cannot be made up if you are absent or arrive late; in addition, you may not come to class, take a quiz, and then leave early.
- Completion of three (3) in-class essay examinations. A typical exam consists of an objective, matching section (authors, terms, quotations) and two longer-essay questions asking you to analyze and synthesize the works we’ve studied.
- Completion of a “Review of Criticism” essay, 4-5 pages long, word-processed and double-spaced. More information will be provided later in a separate assignment handout. If you miss the in-class peer review for this essay, your essay grade will be lowered one letter (e.g. A to B).

Course Evaluation:

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| • Participation | 20% |
| • Quizzes and Exercises | 20% |
| • Three Exams (15% each) | 45% |
| • One “Review of Criticism” Essay | 15% |

A.R.C.C. Grading System:

- A = Superior achievement
- B = Above average achievement
- C = Average achievement
- D = Below average achievement
- F = Inadequate achievement

Grading Scale for Quizzes and Exams:

- A = 100% - 90%
- B = 89% - 80%
- C = 79% - 70%
- D = 69% - 60%
- F = 59% and below

Participation Evaluation:

- A = Perfect attendance and preparation with active participation (participates often with critical and insightful comments).
- B = Perfect attendance and preparation with some participation (participates occasionally with good comments).
- C = Perfect attendance and preparation but no voluntary participation (speaks infrequently but does participate when called on).
- D = More than three (3) absences, occasionally unprepared, and no voluntary participation.
- F = More than six (6) absences, or often unprepared and no voluntary participation.

Essay and Essay-Exam Evaluation:

- An evaluation sheet will be included with the essay assignment, so you will know exactly how the essay will be graded. An evaluation sheet for the essay exams will be distributed before the first exam.

Other Policies and Information

Attendance: Note that more than six (6) absences will adversely affect your final grade; if you are more than five (5) minutes late, you will be considered absent. Please notify me immediately if you must miss more than one class due to a medical emergency or a family crisis; we can then keep you current with the class or determine if an incomplete is warranted. If you must miss a class where an exam or the peer review is scheduled, or when the paper is due, please notify me before class if possible, otherwise as soon after class as possible – documentation will be required in such circumstances to avoid a reduction in your 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.

Class Disruptions: Any disruptive behavior – including arriving late, packing up or leaving early, having private conversations, eating, sleeping, receiving cell phone calls, etc. – which adversely affects the teaching and learning in this class will be handled first on an individual basis; if the disruptive behavior continues or if it is very serious, I will contact the Dean of Educational Services – see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

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 Dean of Educational Services – see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

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

Late Work: Dates for the exams and the due date for the paper are listed on the course schedule. An exam can be rescheduled only under extraordinary circumstances and must be arranged before the exam; an exam not rescheduled prior to the exam will be penalized one letter grade. Late final drafts and portfolios will not receive written comments and the grade will be lowered one letter; after one week, the grade will be an “F.” All exams and the paper must be completed to pass the course. No late work will be accepted during finals week.

Record Keeping: Please make back-up copies of all your work, and keep all exams and other work returned to you. If questions about grades arise, you will need to produce the original documents. In addition, keep track of all your notes and other materials for each exam and the paper; if questions about plagiarism arise, you will need to prove you did your own writing.

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.