

Spring 1-15-2018

## ENG 3703-001: American Literature 1900-1950

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### Recommended Citation

Worthington, Marjorie, "ENG 3703-001: American Literature 1900-1950" (2018). *Spring 2018*. 41.  
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## ENGLISH 3703.001 – AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1900-1950

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington  
Office: Coleman Hall 3321  
Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu  
Class: Coleman Hall 3160, MWF, 1:00pm  
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00am, 12:00-1:00pm, or by appt.

Texts: Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* 1898  
Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* 1901  
Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg Ohio*, 1919 (in D2L)  
Jean Toomer, *Cane*, 1923 (in D2L)  
Ernest Hemingway, "Indian Camp," 1924 (in D2L)  
Edith Wharton, *The Children* 1928  
William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* 1929  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited," 1931 (in D2L)  
Willa Cather, *Old Mrs. Harris*, 1932 (in D2L)  
William Maxwell, *They Came Like Swallows* 1937  
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*, 1937  
Various Poetry (in D2L)

### OBJECTIVES:

- To read, discuss and analyze representative texts of the early twentieth century.
- To familiarize ourselves with differing critical stances on some of these works.
- To learn about and engage in literary research.
- To hone skills related to writing literary analyses.
- To explore relevance of this literature to other texts, arts, disciplines and world issues.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

**YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

**Short Essays:** Over the course of the semester, you will write four one-page *single-spaced, thesis-driven* essays. They should cover the reading assigned for the particular day on which they are due. I will give your 4 different assignments that you must complete over the course of the semester. You may choose which assignment you complete for each due date; you must do each assignment once and only once. It is my hope that these papers will: 1) help you keep up with the reading; and 2) generate interesting ideas for discussion. For that reason, you **must be in class** and **must contribute to class discussion that day** (in other words, speak up) in order to get credit for the response.

**The due dates for these essays will vary so that different people will write on different days. I will assign you to a group (A, B, C or D) and your particular due dates will be indicated on the syllabus with the corresponding letter. Your essays are due ON THE DAYS YOUR LETTER APPEARS.**

**Chesnutt Essay:** For this essay I will ask you to compare the events portrayed in *The Marrow of Tradition* to a particular contemporary issue (I will give you some suggestions). In the process, you will be required to analyze the novel, its corresponding historical event AND the contemporary event.

**Historical Issue Essay:** Choose a very NARROW historical topic and trace its influence on ONE of the texts we have read thus far. For example, how are the events in *They Came Like Swallows* shaped by the flu epidemic of 1918? Or the Okeechobee Hurricane of 1928 depicted in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Your essay should show how we can understand a literary text better when we have an understanding of its historical context.

**Final Exam:** The exam will test both basic knowledge of the texts and class discussion, and your ability to understand and analyze what you have read. It will include essays and short answer.

**Class Participation:** In a class as small as ours, it is important that you come each day prepared and ready to contribute. You must participate substantially EVERY DAY. If you are not accustomed to doing so, GET ACCUSTOMED. Consider it good preparation for the real world.

#### **POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Office Hours:** The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as de-fined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-ported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**Writing Center:** EIU's Writing Center provides free one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

**The Student Success Center:** Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

#### **Grade Breakdown:**

Short Essays (4 @ 10% each)	40%
Chesnutt Essay	20%
Historical Issue Essay	20%
Final Exam	20%

### ENG 3703 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

M Jan. 8	Introduction	
W Jan. 10	James, pp. 22-55	
F Jan. 12	James, pp. 55-82	<b>Group A due</b>
M Jan. 15	NO CLASS MLK DAY	
W Jan. 17	James, pp. 82-end,	<b>Group B due</b>
F Jan. 19	James, pp. 15-20, 133-6, 139-43, Article about boarding schools (D2L)	ALICE Training
M Jan. 22	James, pp. 189-205, <b>Class Debate</b>	
W Jan. 24	Chesnutt, pp. 44-93 (Chaps. 1-7)	
F Jan. 26	Chesnutt, pp. 93-147 (Chaps. 8-17)	
M Jan. 29	Chesnutt, pp. 147-246 (Chaps. 18-37 (end))	
W Jan. 31	Chesnutt, pp. 398-405, 331-337, 422-429 Chesnutt, pp.	
F Feb. 2	Modernism Lecture	
M Feb. 5	Anderson, "The Book of the Grotesque" and "Hands"	<b>Group C due</b>
W Feb. 7	Anderson, "Mother"	
F Feb. 9	The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock (handout)	
M Feb. 12	Toomer, (in D2L)	<b>Group D due (or Wed)</b>
W Feb. 14	Poetry, Hughes, Cullen	<b>Group D due (or Mon)</b>
F Feb. 16	NO CLASS LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	
M Feb. 19	Hemingway (story attached in D2L)	<b>CHESNUTT ESSAY DUE</b>
W Feb. 21	Wharton, Chaps. 1-7	
F Feb. 23	Wharton, Chaps 8-12	<b>Group A due</b>
M Feb 26	Wharton, Chaps. 13-22	<b>Group B due</b>
W Feb. 28	Wharton, Chaps. 23-27	
F March 2	Wharton, Chaps. 28-end	<b>Group C due</b>
M March 5	Video: American Experience, "Crash of 1929"	
W March 7	Fitzgerald (story attached in D2L)	<b>Group D due</b>
F March 9	Modern Art	
March 12-16	SPRING BREAK	
M March 19	Faulkner, April Seventh, 1928	<b>Group A due</b>
W March 21	Faulkner, June Second, 1910	<b>Group B due</b>
F March 23	Faulkner, April Sixth, 1928	<b>Group C due</b>
M March 26	Faulkner, April Eight, 1928	<b>Group D due</b>
W March 28	Faulkner, pp. 203-215, 275-278, 405-412	
F March 30	Pound, Poetry, H.D., Millay (D2L)	
M April 2	Modern Times	
W April 4	Modern Times	
F April 6	Cather, pp. 1-20 (D2L)	

M April 9	Cather, pp. 21-end, Poetry: Crane, Williams (D2L)	<b>Group A due (or Wed)</b>
W April 11	Hurston, Chaps. 1-5	<b>Group A due (or Mon)</b>
F April 13	Hurston, Chaps. 6-10	<b>Group B due</b>
M April 16	Hurston, Chaps. 11-20	<b>Group C due</b>
W April 18	Hurston, Foreword and pp. 195-205	
F April 20	Maxwell, Book 1	<b>Group D due</b>
M April 23	Maxwell, Book 2	
W April 25	Maxwell, Book 3	
F April 27	Video: American Experience: Influenza 1918	<b>HISTORICAL ISSUE ESSAY DUE</b>

**FINAL EXAM – Wednesday., May 2, 12:30-2:30pm**

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Emphasis on such topics as modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, and World War II. Writers may include Cather, Eliot, Wharton, Hemingway, Hurston, W. C. Williams, Moore, Faulkner, Stevens, Wright, O'Neill. (Group 3C) WI