

Spring 1-15-2016

ENG 3703-001: American Literature: 1900-1950

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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 3150, MWF, 2:00pm
Office Hours: MWF 11:00am-2:00pm, or by appt.

Texts: Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* 1898
Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* 1901
Willa Cather, *My Antonia* 1918
Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg Ohio*, 1919
Jean Toomer, *Cane*, 1923
Ernest Hemingway, "Indian Camp," 1924
Edith Wharton, *The Children* 1928
William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* 1929
F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited," 1931
William Maxwell, *They Came Like Swallows* 1937
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*, 1937

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.

Chesnutt Essay: For this essay I will ask you to compare the events portrayed in *The Marrow of Tradition* to the events that recently unfolded in the federal building in Bend, Oregon. 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? Your essay should show how we can understand the literary text better when we have an understanding of its historical context.

Modernism Essay: This assignment will require you to discuss several of the characteristics in modernist literature in terms of how they manifest themselves in ONE of the texts we have read this semester. Your essay should demonstrate how an understanding of modernist traditions provides a deeper insight into the text.

English Studies Conference Presentation: You will be making a brief (5-minute) presentation that showcases the main points of one of the two essays you will have written by this point. Your presentation should be informative, interesting and should include visual aids of some kind. We will practice these in the days before the English Studies Conference and then you will present them on that day, April 8.

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. To get a good grade here, 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-reported 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) 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:

Chesnutt Essay	20%
Modernism Essay	20%
English Studies Day Presentation	10%
Historical Issue Essay	20%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation	10%

ENG 3703 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

M Jan. 11	Introduction	
W Jan. 13	James, pp. 22-49	
F Jan. 15	James, pp. 49-72	
M Jan. 18	NO CLASS MLK DAY	
W Jan. 20	James, pp. 72-end	
F Jan. 22	James, pp. 15-20, 133-6, 139-43, Article about boarding schools	
M Jan. 25	James, pp. 189-205	
W Jan. 27	Chesnutt, pp. 398-405, 331-337, 422-429	
F Jan. 29	Chesnutt, pp. 44-102 (Chaps. 1-9)	
M Feb. 1	Chesnutt, pp. 102-196 (Chaps. 10-28)	
W Feb. 3	Chesnutt, pp. 196- 246 (Chaps. 29-37)	
F Feb. 5	Cather, Intro and Book 1	
M Feb. 8	Cather, Book 2 & 3	
W Feb. 10	Cather, Book 4 & 5	
F Feb. 12	NO CLASS LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	
M Feb. 15	Modernism Lecture	CHESNUTT ESSAY DUE
W Feb. 17	Anderson, "The Book of the Grotesque" and "Hands"	
F Feb. 19	Anderson, "Mother"	
M Feb. 22	Toomer, first half	
W Feb. 24	Toomer, second half	
F Feb. 26	Hemingway (story attached in D2L)	
M Feb 29	Wharton, Chaps. 1-7	
W March 2	Wharton, Chaps 8-14	
F March 4	Wharton, Chaps. 15-21	
M March 7	Wharton, Chaps. 22-27	
W March 9	Wharton, Chaps. 28-end	
F March 11	Video: American Experience, "Crash of 1929"	HISTORICAL ISSUE ESSAY DUE
March 12-19	SPRING BREAK	
M March 21	Fitzgerald (story attached in D2L)	
W March 23	Faulkner, April Seventh, 1928	
F March 25	Faulkner, June Second, 1910	
M March 28	Faulkner, April Sixth, 1928	
W March 30	Faulkner, April Eight, 1928	
F April 1	Faulkner, pp. 203-215, 275-278, 405-412	
M April 4	PRESENTATIONS	

W April 6 **PRESENTATIONS**
F April 8 **ENGLISH STUDIES DAY**

M April 11 The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock (handout)
W April 13 Hurston, Chaps. 1-5
F April 15 Hurston, Chaps. 6-10

M April 18 Hurston, Chaps. 11-20
W April 20 Hurston, pp. 195-205
F April 22 Maxwell, Book 1

M April 25 Maxwell, Book 2
W April 27 Maxwell, Book 3
F April 29 Video: American Experience: Influenza 1918

MODERNISM ESSAY DUE

FINAL EXAM – Thurs., May 5, 8-10am

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