

## English 2260 American Literature II

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Office Hours: MW 9-10, 12-1, or by appointment

### Course Description and Objectives

This course focuses on American Literary works from the Civil War through the contemporary era in the context of historical, philosophical, and cultural changes since the nineteenth century. Through the texts we will read and discuss, you will gain an understanding and appreciation of our cultural inheritance. Through literary works, we will understand literature in relation to our own modern culture. You will participate in a classroom community of learners reading and responding to a common body of literature. These responses will occur in the form of classroom/online conversations, written essays, presentations, and exams. This course should also prompt you to employ critical thinking skills as we investigate the ever-changing American literary canon.

### Required Materials

*American Literature*. Vol. 2. Eds. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. William E. Cain, Alice McDermott, Lance Newman, and Hilary E. Wyss. New York: Pearson, 2014.

Kỳ Lý Smith, Genaro. *The Land Baron's Sun: The Story of Lý Loc and His Seven Wives*. Lafayette: UL Press, 2014.

Supplemental readings (I will provide these)

Auburn email account and memory drive (or cloud storage) to save and store work

### Organization

This section of ENGL 2260 is organized chronologically and thematically. Even with this structure, the course covers a large span of American literary history from the Post-Bellum era through the twenty-first century. The organization provides an opportunity for us to explore ideas such as citizenship and the American Dream when we read selections from authors such as Tennessee Williams and Richard Wright. This course will explore issues of class, race, and gender in texts by authors such as Hamlin Garland, Ernest J. Gaines, and Kate Chopin. Along with these thematic elements, we will explore aesthetic movements such as realism, modernism, and postmodernism through works by William Dean Howells, Ernest Hemingway, and Louise Erdrich. Along with exploring these aspects, we will question the American literary canon and who should or should not be included in that canon. These are only some of the questions we will ponder; more will arise as we proceed through the semester on our literary journey.

### Course Requirements and Explanation of Grading

Quizzes, Forums, and Participation (online assignments)	10%
Essay One (1,200-1,500 words)	20%
Presentation and written project	20%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

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

***Attendance and In-Class Participation***— Although I believe that as adults you should have control over your own education, attendance is vital to your success in this course. Much of your learning and work will take place in class, and you will be involved in discussing the readings in class. To fully comprehend and hopefully appreciate the texts, you should come to class fully prepared. This means you should have read the homework and completed any assignments for class.

You will be held accountable to the following attendance policy: 4 or more unexcused absences will result in a grade of FA (failure due to absences). If you have an excused absence—e.g., university-sponsored trip, doctor's visit—you must provide verification to the course instructor, in writing, no later than *one week* after the absence occurs. Tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful to your peers and to the teacher. Every two instances of tardiness (defined as 5 minutes late or more) will be counted as one absence.

Daily attendance is not sufficient to guarantee you a passing participation grade. Any activities taking place during class time contribute to your in-class participation grade. This includes note-taking during lectures, actively participating during discussion, and otherwise participating in class activities. There will be small group discussions during classes and other activities that will be part of this grade.

***Essay One***—This will be explained on a separate handout. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day specified on the paper assignment handout. **Late papers are penalized one letter grade per academic day! Due February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

***Quizzes***—These will be based on readings and/or concepts from lectures and online discussions. Quizzes will be given at least once a week and possibly twice. Make sure you prepare for these by reading the materials for class. Missed quizzes (excused or unexcused) cannot be made up. I will drop the lowest quiz grade.

***Forums***—Every two weeks, you will be required to post a question about the readings the day we discuss them. You must also respond to one person's question on the forum to receive full credit for the assignment.

***Presentation and Written Project***—Reading literature is not a solitary activity. While you may read alone, literature is meant to be discussed and contemplated with others. With that in mind, you will be required to create a presentation with one or two other students in the course. The presentation will include a written component as well. It will involve your group discussing a literary text that relates to our course. The details of this assignment will be explained on a separate handout. Presentations will occur throughout the semester.

***Mid-term and Final Exams***—The mid-term will consist of definition/identification questions and a long essay question. The final will consist of definition/identification questions, short answer questions, and a long essay question. Only the works we discuss in class or that I otherwise specify will be covered on the exams. The mid-term will include material up to February 15<sup>th</sup> while the final will mainly focus on material after that date; however, the final may have questions about some of the material from the first part of the semester.

### Late and Make-up Work

1. Assignments are due on the Due Date. **They will not be accepted late.**
2. Essays are due at the beginning of class on the day specified on the assignment handout. **Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per academic calendar day.**
3. Late daily assignments will be failed if unexcused.
4. Quizzes cannot be made up
5. Exams will not be made-up unless the student provides an excuse from the Dean of Students.

### Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

There are two major types of plagiarism:

1. Word-for-word copying, without acknowledgement, of the language of another writer. (Almost needless to say, having another person write or dictate all or part of one's composition is plagiarism of this kind and clearly forbidden. But in addition students should copy no passages, no matter how brief, without acknowledging its source and either placing it in quotation marks or setting it aside as a blocked quotation.)
2. The unacknowledged paraphrasing of an author's ideas. (The student should no more take credit for another writer's thoughts than for another writer's language. Any distinctly original idea taken from another writer should be credited to its author. If the student does not know whether another writer's idea is distinctly original, he or she should incline to believe that it is; no fault attaches to over-acknowledge, but under-acknowledgement is plagiarism.)

Cheating and plagiarism are serious violations of the Student Academic Honesty Code (Title XII) and will be treated according to the procedures outlined in the [Student Policy e-Handbook](#) or on the [University Policies website](#). You are responsible for asking your instructor any questions you may have about honest use of sources or proper documentation. You will receive a "0" for the assignment for the first instance of plagiarism. For a second instance, you will fail the course.

### Miller Writing Center

The Auburn University Miller Writing Center is free and available for students who desire feedback on their writing. (We can *all* use extra feedback on our writing.) Keep in mind, however, that while the tutors are there to help you with your assignments, they are not there to complete your assignments for you. Thus, when you schedule a meeting, make sure to have a list of questions, your essay, and documents like writing prompts with you when you actually meet. Taking these simple steps will help you and the tutors make the most of your time working together.

### Classroom Conduct

Students should conduct themselves in a manner respectful of themselves, their classmates, and me. While we may discuss controversial or potentially offensive issues, and class discussions may well involve differences of opinion, students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

**I require all students to turn off or silence all cell phones, tablets, and computers. We will use these in class, at certain points. However, when we are not using them for classroom activities, they must be put away.**

### **Early Alert Grade Statement**

You will receive an “Early Alert Grade” one week prior to midterm (31<sup>st</sup> class day). The Early Alert Grade represents your current performance on class work graded at that point in the semester. If your Early Alert Grade is a “D,” “F,” or “FA,” you will receive an email from the AU Retention Coordinator. Early Alert Grades can be viewed by logging into AU Access, opening the “tiger i” tab, selecting “Student Records,” and opening the “Midterm Grades” window from the drop down box. If the grade appears inaccurate, please contact the instructor.

### **Withdrawal from the Course**

No grade penalty will be assigned for dropping a course on or before midterm. A student who withdraws from a course prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> class day during Fall or Spring semester will receive no grade assignment; however, after the first 15 days, a “W” (Withdrawn Passing) grade will be recorded for the course. A course may be dropped with a “W” after midterm only under unusual conditions (e.g., serious illness of the student, serious illness or death of a member of the student’s immediate family). When approval for dropping the course under such circumstances is granted by the student’s dean, a “W” may be assigned only when the instructor indicates that the student is clearly passing the course. Otherwise, a grade of “WF” (Withdrawn Failing) will be assigned.

### **Accessibility Statement**

Students who need accommodations are asked to submit their approved accommodations electronically through AU Access and to make an individual appointment with the course instructor during the first week of classes—or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096. For more information, you can also visit the website for the Office of Accessibility: <<https://cws.auburn.edu/accessibility>>.

**Tentative Readings for English 2260**  
**(This schedule is subject to change)**

Date	Reading	Presentation
January 11	Introduction to Course	
January 13	<b>Go over essay one assignment and presentation assignment.</b>	
January 16	<b>No Class MLK Holiday</b>	
January 18	Brett Harte “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”	
January 20	Hamlin Garland “Under the Lion’s Paw”	
January 23	Sarah Orne Jewett “A White Heron”	
January 25	Sui Sin Far “Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of a Eurasian”	
January 27	William Dean Howells “Editha”	
January 30	George Washington Cable “Tite Poullete”*	
February 1	Kate Chopin “Desirée’s Baby” & “The Storm”	Kate Chopin’s <i>The Awakening</i>
February 3	Mark Twain “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” & “Fenimore Copper’s Literary Offenses”	Mark Twain’s <i>Pudd’nhead Wilson</i>
February 6	Charles Chesnutt “The Sheriff’s Children”	Charles Chesnutt’s <i>Paul Marchand, F.M.C.</i>
February 8	Paul Laurence Dunbar “Sympathy,” “We Wear the Mask,” & “Nelse Hatton’s Vengeance”*	Paul Laurence Dunbar’s <i>The Sport of the Gods</i>
February 10	Booker T. Washington from <i>Up from Slavery: Chapter XIV</i>	
February 13	W.E.B. DuBois From <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i>	
February 15	Susan Glaspell <i>Trifles</i>	

February 17	Review for Mid-term	Essay One Due!
February 20	Mid-Term	
February 22	William Faulkner "Dry September"*	
February 24	F. Scott Fitzgerald "Babylon Revisited"	F. Scott Fitzgerald's <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
February 27	Ernest Hemingway "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber"	Ernest Hemingway's <i>In Our Time</i>
March 1	T.S. Eliot "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" & Gwendolyn Brooks "The Sundays of Satin Legs Smith"*	Jean Toomer's <i>Cane</i>
March 3	Eugene O'Neill <i>The Emperor Jones</i>	Eugene O'Neill <i>A Long Day's Journey Into Night</i>
March 6	Richard Wright "Long Black Song"	Richard Wright <i>Black Boy</i>
March 8	Eudora Welty "A Worn Path"	
March 10	Flannery O'Connor "Revelation"	
March 13	Spring Break!	
March 15	Spring Break!	
March 17	Spring Break!	
March 20	Zora Neale Hurston "The Gilded Six Bits"	Zora Neale Hurston <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
March 22	Ellen Glasgow "Jordan's End"*	
March 24	Tennessee William <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> Act I	
March 27	Tennessee William <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> Act II	
March 29	Tennessee William <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> Act III	Tennessee Williams <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
March 31	James Baldwin "Notes of a Native Son"	James Baldwin <i>Blues for Mister Charlie</i>
April 3	Toni Morrison "Recitatif"	

<b>April 5</b>	Dorothy Allison “River of Names”*	Kaye Gibbons <i>Ellen Foster</i>
<b>April 7</b>	TBD!	
<b>April 10</b>	Genarao Kÿ Lý Smith <i>The Land Baron’s Sun</i> Prologue-Part II	
<b>April 12</b>	Genarao Kÿ Lý Smith <i>The Land Baron’s Sun</i> Intermission-Epilogue	
<b>April 14</b>	Genarao Kÿ Lý Smith <i>The Land Baron’s Sun</i>	
<b>April 17</b>	Joyce Carol Oates “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”	
<b>April 19</b>	Alice Walker “Everyday Use”	Alice Walker <i>Meridian</i>
<b>April 21</b>	Ernest Gaines “The Sky is Gray”*	Ernest Gaines <i>A Gathering of Old Men</i>
<b>April 24</b>	Louise Erdrich “The Red Convertible”	
<b>April 26</b>	Tim O’Brien “The Things They Carried”	
<b>April 28</b>	Review for final!	
<b>May 1-May 5</b>	Final!	

\* Text will be provided through Canvas