

ENGL 3840: American Literature Since 1870

Instructor

Name: Dr. Carly Susser

Office Hours and Location: M & W @ 8 AM - 10 AM on Zoom (Link on Canvas)

Email: carly.susser@unt.edu or via Canvas. I will reply to all emails within 24 hours except weekends.

Materials

Levine, Robert S., et al. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2017. [10th edition digital only, purchase through the course Canvas page]

Course Description

A broad survey of American literature from the late-19th century to the present; includes the study of a variety of literary genres, movements and traditions. This course is entirely online and the semester lasts 16 weeks. There are fourteen “Lessons” and they are exactly one week in length except for Lesson 3, which lasts two weeks and we read a full novel, *My Antonia*.

Course Objectives

1. Examine how American literature took shape in relation to the country’s past, present, and imagined future.
2. Analyze how American literature can shed light on the cultural dynamics of the modern U.S.
3. Demonstrate through writing a solid grounding in the last 100 years of American literature as a basis for future study in the field or simply your own appreciation of the nation’s complex social history.
4. Identify characteristics of major literary periods such as realism, naturalism, postmodernism, and contemporary literature.

Each week's required reading will usually consist of a chapter from the course ebook, the Norton Anthology of American Literature 10th edition.

Teaching Philosophy

This course will introduce masterpieces of American literature since 1870. We will talk about how texts gain and use their power not only to shape cultures, but to connect people separated by vast distances. We will examine American literature in the context of its cultural assumptions and values and for its 21st century relevance. My hope is this will help us understand how humans from different places and times, writing in different genres, use literature to explore universal experiences such as love, war, death, power, gender, and the search for meaning.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer and reliable internet access
- Speakers

- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.

- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Requirements

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>
Major Assignment 1 – Close Reading Essay	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>10%</i>
Major Assignment 2 – Contrastive Essay	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>15%</i>
Midterm Exam	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>15%</i>
Final Exam	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>15%</i>
Online Workshops • 11 Online Workshops @ 100 points ea.	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>10%</i>
Discussion Boards & “One Pagers” • 13 Discussion Boards @ 100 points ea. • 4 short answer, “one-pagers” @ 100 points each	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>15%</i>
Reading Check Quizzes • 9 Reading check quizzes @ 100 pts each	<i>100 points ea.</i>	<i>20%</i>
Total Points Possible		<i>100%</i>

Grading

Include the grading scale (A-F) along with the point totals/percentages you will use to calculate the final grade. For example:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 50-59

Late work is generally not accepted and will be penalized a letter for each day. **See below about one-day no-penalty grace period.**

Reading Schedule (see below)

Date (M/D-D/Y)	READING	Papers/Tests
Week 1 (Lesson 1)	• Norton Anthology of American Literature, Introduction • Henry James headnote and <i>Daisy Miller</i> (ch I,II,III) • Ambrose Bierce headnote and "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" • Walt Whitman headnote and "The Wound Dresser"	
Week 2 (Lesson 2)	• Stephen Crane headnote and "The Open Boat" • Kate Chopin headnote and "Désirée's Baby" • Charles Chesnutt headnote and "The Goophered Grapevine"	
Week 3 (Lesson 3)	* Period Introduction, American Literature 1914-1945 (pages D3-D26)	
Week 4 (Lesson 3)	* Willa Cather headnote and <i>My Ántonia</i> by Willa Cather (read introduction and chapters 1-5) [this is an entire novel, plan accordingly]	
Week 5 (Lesson 4)	• Wallace Stevens, "The Idea of Order at Key West" • Wallace Stevens, "The Emperor of Ice Cream" • an explication of "The Emperor of Cream" from Poetry Foundation • William Carlos Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow" • William Carlos Williams, "This is Just To Say" • Carl Sandburg, "Chicago" • Charles Alexander Eastman, "From the Deep Woods to Civilization"	CLOSE READING ESSAY DUE
Week 6 (Lesson 5)	• W.E.B. Du Bois excerpt from <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> • Claude McKay "Harlem Dancer" • Claude McKay "If We Must Die" • Claude McKay "The Lynching" • Langston Hughes "The Weary Blues" • Langston Hughes "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" • Langston Hughes "Mother to Son" • Langston Hughes "I, Too" • Langston Hughes "Harlem" • Zora Neal Hurston "Sweat" • Zora Neal Hurston "How It Feels To Be Colored Me"	

Date (M/D-D/Y)	READING	Papers/Tests
Week 7 (Lesson 6)	• Gertrude Stein, “Matisse” and “Picasso” • William Faulkner headnote & "Barn Burning" • Ernest Hemingway headnote & "Hills Like White Elephants" • F. T. Marinetti from <i>The Manifesto of Futurism</i> • T.S. Eliot headnote & "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"	
MIDTERM	NO READING	MIDTERM EXAM OCTOBER 9
Week 8 (Lesson 7)	• F. Scott Fitzgerald headnote & <i>The Great Gatsby</i> Chapter 1 • John Steinbeck headnote & “The Chrysanthemums” • Richard Wright headnote & “The Man Who Was Almost a Man”	
Week 9 (Lesson 8)	• August Wilson, <i>Fences</i>	
Week 10 (Lesson 9)	• Flannery O’Connor headnote and "A Good Man is Hard to Find" • Philip Roth headnote and “Defender of the Faith” • James Baldwin and "Going to Meet the Man"	
Week 11 (Lesson 10)	• James Baldwin headnote and “Sonny’s Blues” • Gwendolyn Brooks headnote and "kitchenette building” • Gwendolyn Brooks "We Real Cool” • Amiri Baraka headnote and “An Agony, As Now” • Amiri Baraka “A Poem for Willie Best” • Audre Lorde headnote and “Coal” • Audre Lorde, "The Woman Thing"	

Week 12 (Lesson 11)	• N Scott Momaday headnote and "The Way to Rainy Mountain" • Simon Ortiz headnote and "Passing Through Little Rock" • Joy Harjo headnote and "Call It Fear" • Joy Harjo "Perhaps the World Ends Here" • Sherman Alexie headnote and "This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona"	
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Date (M/D-D/Y)	READING	Papers/Tests
Week 13 (Lesson 12)	• Frank O'Hara headnote and "The Day Lady Died" • Alan Ginsberg headnote and "Howl" • Art Spiegelman headnote and selection from <i>Maus</i> • Kurt Vonnegut headnote and selection from <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>	
Week 14 (Lesson 13)	• Annie Dillard headnote and "Seeing" from <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> • Gary Snyder, "Milton By Firelight" • Louise Erdrich headnote and "I Was Sleeping Where the Black Oaks Move"	CONTRASTIVE ESSAY DUE DECEMBER 6
Week 15 (Lesson 14)	• Jhumpa Lahiri, "Sexy" • Junot Diaz, "Drown" • Sandra Cisneros "Woman Hollering Creek"	
FINAL EXAM		DECEMBER 13

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

Due dates for each assignment are listed on the assignment information prompt and the syllabus page in both the attached syllabus and the Canvas "calendar" available on the syllabus page. Most file types are acceptable when file submissions are required. The upload links are provided within the assignment prompts.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems

to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Examination Policy

Tests are open book and must be completed at the designated time. Should a student lose an internet connection during the exam, make up exam assignments will be given, typically a three or four page essay. Contact the Student Helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting you.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

- Instructor responsibilities in the course include helping students grow and learn; providing clear instructions for projects and assessments, answering questions about assignments, identifying additional resources as necessary, providing grading guidance, and reviewing and updating course content.

Late Work

Late work is generally not accepted and will be penalized a letter (10%) each day. Late work = Accepted after the one-day no-penalty grace period from the due date (with the exception of Midterms and Exams). Once an assignment locks, it locks for good. Please email me if you have any questions.

Attendance Policy

Our course is an asynchronous, online course with no mandatory meetings.

Class Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in all course activities and instructor office hours sessions as needed.

Syllabus Change Policy

I will post an announcement on our Canvas page about any changes to the syllabus.

Course Content

The course readings may include passages with vulgar language, explicit descriptions of sex, and disturbing depictions of cruelty and violence. If you do not wish to read or discuss such content, you should drop this course. Feel free to inquire further if you need more detail to make a decision.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

The use of generative AI writing tools (such as ChatGPT, GrammarlyGO, GPT-3, GPT-4, BERT, or others) is prohibited in this class. Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a writer without the use of these technologies. You will generate ideas, read, revise, and write on your own and/or in consultation with peers, me, or Writing Center tutors, and you will not use AI at any stage of your writing process. You are the author of your work for the course and authorship means you take responsibility for your words and claims. Any use of AI technologies in your work will be considered an [violation of UNT's academic integrity policy](#) and addressed accordingly. *Statement composed by Annette Vee, under CC-BY-NC (Creative Commons By-Noncommercial license).

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.