

MEDAILLE COLLEGE  
AGASSIZ CIRCLE  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities  
Course Number: ENG 335  
Course Title: American Literature: Civil War through the Twentieth Century  
Number of Credits: 3  
Prerequisites: Any 200-level Literature course

A. Catalog Description of Course:

An intensive critical study of American literature from the start of the Civil War through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, emphasizing both individual works and literary/historical traditions.

B. Goals:

- To give students familiarity with the various figures, periods, and traditions of literature of the last century and a half in the United States, including Realism and Naturalism, Modernism, African-American writing, Feminist writing, literature of the Post-WW II period and emergent traditions,
- To acquaint students with the major aspects of American and world history during this period, as it pertains to U.S. literature, from the Civil War period until recent times.
- To develop student appreciation and familiarity both with the canon of American literature of this period and with non-canonical figures and aspects.
- To give students practice and training in literary analysis and in speaking and writing about literature.
- To draw connections between the literature of the last 150 years in the United States and familiar aspects of our present national identity.

C. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify, discuss, and demonstrate an understanding of the major periods, traditions, features, and important figures of post-Civil War American Literature, including its major ethnic, aesthetic, and political dimensions.
- Recognize both canonical and non-canonical aspects of this period in American literary history.

- Write and speak clearly on topics pertaining to these studies.
- Show ability to analyze American literary texts and employ and recognize literary terms and features in these texts.

D. Outline of Course Content:

- I. Literature of the Civil War
- II. American Literary Realism (Twain, James) and Naturalism (Crane, etc.)
- III. American Modernism in Poetry and Prose (including any or all: Eliot, Pound, Stein, Williams, Fitzgerald, Anderson, Hemingway, Faulkner)
- IV. Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century American Feminism (Gilman, Chopin, etc.)
- V. African-American Traditions in the Novel (Wright, etc.) and Poetry (Harlem Renaissance, etc.)
- VI. Literature of World War II and its Aftermath
- VII. Emergent Late-Twentieth Century American Traditions (Asian-American, Native, etc.)

II. Representative selections from late periods (selection and emphasis up to instructor)

III. Significant non-literary influences on American literature (religious and philosophical movements, technology, war, economics, art, women's movement, etc.)

E. Suggested Texts:

Bradley, Sculley, ed. et al. The American Tradition in Literature. 7th ed. New York: Norton, 1989.

Mc Michael, George. Anthology of American Literature. 4th ed. New York: Macmillan, 1989.

Miller, Perry, ed. Major Writers of America. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1962.

Paperbacks of individual authors/works

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

library resources for secondary material

Videos - American Literature

American Short Story

Voices and Visions (American poetry)

G. Instructor References:

Bank, Stanley, ed. American Romanticism: A Shape for Fiction. New York: Capricorn Books, 1969.

Beidler, Philip C. American Literature and the Experience of Vietnam. University of Georgia Press, 1982.

Blair, Walter et al., eds. American Literature; a Brief History. 1964.

Cowie, Alexander. The Rise of the American Novel. 1948.

Etulain, Richard W. American Literary West. Sunflower Univ. Press, 1980.

Fiedler, Leslie. Love and Death in the American Novel. New York: Criterion Books, 1962.

Foerster, Norman. American Criticism; a Story in Literary Theory from Poe to the President. 1962.

Gray, Richard. American Fiction: New Readings. Imports, 1983.

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Hoffman, Daniel G. Form and Fable in American Fiction. New York: Oxford University Press, 1961.

Hughes, Richard. The Lively Image: Four Myths in Literature. 1975.

Kartiganer, Donald. Theories of American Literature. 1972.

Levin, Harry. The Power of Blackness: Hawthorne, Poe, Melville. New York: Knopf, 1958.

Martin, Ronald. American Literature and the Understanding of Force. Duke University Press, 1983.

Matthiessen, F.O. American Renaissance. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

Morse, David. American Romanticism. Imports, 1986.

Richards, R.F., ed. Concise Dictionary of American Literature. 1955.

Scherman, David E. & Redlich, Rosemarie. Literary America: A Chronicle of American Writer: 1607-1952. Greenwood, 1978.

Trend, W.P., et al., ed. Cambridge History of American Literature; 3 vols. 1954.

White, Michael C. & Davis, Alan. American Fiction 87. Wesley Press, 1987.

Wilson, Edmund, ed. The Shock of Recognition. New York: Grosset and Dunlop, 1955.

