

# Virginia Western Community College

## ENG 242

### Survey of American Literature II

#### **Prerequisites**

ENG 111, ENG 112

#### **Course Description**

VCCS Course Description: Examines American literary works from colonial times to the present, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of our national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. Prerequisite ENG 112 or divisional approval. Part II of II. Lecture 3 hours per week. 3 credits.

VWCC Course Description: American Literature I begins with the birth of realism, extends through the trend toward naturalistic writing, and concludes with contemporary, postmodern works. The course will acquaint you with the social, political, religious, economic, and philosophical influences that have helped shape modern American literature. At the same time, it will enable you to trace the emergence of common themes and techniques by examining the writing of representative American authors.

**Semester Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3**

**Required Materials**

1. Internet access
  2. Blackboard
  3. Textbook
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1. Belasco, Susan, and Linck Johnson, eds. *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. 2 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.: 1865 to the Present. NY: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. ISBN# 978-0-312-67869-2
  2. Outside novel (optional), instructor's choice of several.

**Other Required Materials:**

Novel-Instructor's choice from approved novel selections.

**Course Outcomes**

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Demonstrate the historical, cultural, and intellectual currents that have contributed to the rise of modern and contemporary American literature
- Identify the major themes and characteristics of later American literature
- Exhibit the ability to think critically about readings in class discussions, tests, and papers
- Write effective analytical essays about modern/contemporary American prose and poetry

**Topical Description**

1	Introduction to the course
2	Unit One: Late 19 <sup>th</sup> Century
3	Unit Two: The Modern Period
4	Unit Three: The Contemporary Period (1945 to the present)

**Notes to Instructors**