

Revised: Fall 2014
Fall 2015
Fall 2016

ENG 242

Survey of American Literature II

COURSE OUTLINE

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

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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

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ENG 242: Survey of American Literature II

Required Materials:

1. Internet access
2. Blackboard
3. Textbook

Textbook:

1. Belasco, Susan, and Linck Johnson, eds. *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. 2 2nd ed.: 1865 to the Present. NY: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. ISBN# 978-0-312-67869-2
2. Outside novel from the list below or other appropriate selections (optional).

The following supplementary materials are available: Instructors may choose to add an outside novel from the following approved list:

1. Hemingway, Ernest. *The Sun Also Rises*.
2. Faulkner. *The Reivers*.
3. Steinbeck, John. *The Winter of Our Discontent*
4. Giardina, Denise. *The Unquiet Earth*.
5. Chopin, *The Awakening*
6. Morrison. *Beloved*

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Topical Description:

- Introduction to the Course
- Unit One: Late 19th Century
- Unit Two: The Modern Period
- Unit Three: The Contemporary Period (1945 to the Present)

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