

Virginia Western Community College

ENG 246

American Literature

Prerequisites

ENG 112, ENG 113, or departmental approval

Course Description

Examines American literary traditions and texts from diverse time periods, genres, and authors. Analyzes literary works within their historical, cultural, social, and/or literary contexts. Emphasizes skills of close reading. Develops critical thinking and interpretive skills through discussion, interpretation, and analysis of these texts.

General Course Purpose

ENG 246 introduces students to texts and traditions within American literature. This course requires close reading, interpretation, and analysis.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Internet access
2. Canvas

Textbook:

[Let's Get Writing-- online textbook](#)

[American Literature I: An Anthology of Texts from Early America Through the Civil War](#) – OER textbook

Additional Open Educational Resources

One or more of the following novels:

- Passing: 978-1-614-27000-3
- Best American Short Stories of the Century: 978-0-395-84367-3
- Homegoing: 978-1-101-97106-2
- The Coquette: 978-0-195-04239-9
- The Sun also Rises: 978-0-743-29733-2
- The Scarlet Letter: 678-0-679-78338-1
- The Great Gatsby: 978-1-982-14670-2

Other Required Materials: None

Course Outcomes

Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and interpret information, ideas and arguments from a variety of perspectives (including the written arguments of others) to analyze complex issues related to literature • Interpret and combine information to reach and/or evaluate well-reasoned conclusions about literature
Communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the complex ideas of others, as they relate to literature and its traditions • Develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing that focuses on literary analysis • Develop writing that is appropriate to a given context and for a specific audience
Cultural and Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the impact of culture across local, national, and global literary communities • Develop knowledge and civic values, within a humanities framework, that are necessary for contributing to civic life and the well-being of local, national, and global literary communities
Literary Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe salient features of writers, literary movements, genres and/or texts within the American literary tradition.
Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct and explore meaningful questions about diverse human experiences through literary study
Historical and social contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain connections between literary texts and related historical, social, and literary contexts
Close Reading and Literary Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze literary texts using appropriate vocabulary and a variety of methodological approaches and perspectives, exploring the ways literary texts reflect and challenge cultural values and beliefs • Support interpretations of literary texts with valid textual evidence and use scholarly sources as appropriate to inform inquiry into literary texts
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose literary analysis that is well-organized and features substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas with appropriate documentation

Notes to Instructors

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)