

ENGL 33002-600: AMERICAN LITERATURE SURVEY, 1865-1945
 MW 9:30-10:45, MAIN HALL 317
 FALL 2019

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Office Hours: MW 11-12:30, 1-1:45; TR 11-1:30. Walk-ins welcome!

Note: All information in this syllabus is subject to change. All policy and schedule changes will be announced in class and emended on the syllabus. All revisions will be made to the syllabus as posted on Blackboard. It is crucial that you check the syllabus on Blackboard regularly.

Theme: Adventures and Awakenings

Where does American literature take us and what does it reveal to us? Adventures and awakenings await in this survey of American literature, 1865 to 1945. Adventure to mythical lands of women in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*, or to the wild, wild west of Buffalo Bill. Awaken to racial injustices and personal autonomy in Nella Larsen's *Passing* and Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. Compare tales of babies swapped at birth in Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson* and Frances Harper's *Minnie's Sacrifice*. And more! Though we could add other nouns—like assimilation, aspiration, addiction—all of our texts deal inherently with what it means to be American.

Over the next four months you'll explore a range of literary forms and genres, including novels, short stories, memoirs, and poetry. We'll explore the ways these texts speak not just to major literary movements but to cultural, social, and political changes. Assignments will include written analyses of historical context as well as multimodal, interactive reader response pieces. There will be regular quizzes and a midterm and final exam.

Required Texts and Materials:

Please do not purchase a different edition of the following books. We need to be able to refer to the same page numbers in class discussion.

- Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. Penguin edition, ISBN 9780142437322
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *Herland*. Broadview edition, ISBN 9781551119878 / 1551119870
- Larsen, Nella. *Passing*. Penguin edition, ISBN 9780142437278
- Twain, Mark. *Pudd'nhead Wilson*. Broadview edition, ISBN 9781554812660 / 1554812666
- Additional readings will be provided by instructor.**
- Paper and writing implements—bring to every class.

*Tablet or e-reader strongly suggested. Some of the required texts are available only as e-books, unless you buy an expensive anthology. It is highly distracting to me to see students on phones during class, so I kindly ask students to bring in a tablet or e-reader (or a laptop even) to view the readings in class. If you have better reading comprehension with hard copies, feel free to print the readings.

****Full Reading List:**

Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
 Frances Harper, *Minnie's Sacrifice*
 Buffalo Bill Cody, dime novel selections
 Zitkala-Sa, American Indian Stories
 Frederick Jackson Turner, from *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*
 Charles Chestnutt, "The Wife of His Youth"
 H. P. Lovecraft, "Call of Cthulhu"
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland* and "The Yellow Wallpaper"
 Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* and "Desiree's Baby"
 Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"
 Sherwood Anderson, "Hands"
 Nella Larsen, *Passing*
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited"
 Dorothy Parker, "Big Blonde"
 Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*
 Poetry and essays by Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay,
 W. E. B. DuBois and Richard Wright

ASSESSMENT

Essay	10%
Quizzes	30%
Commonplace Blog	15%
Book Roundtable Project	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale:

94-100	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	Below 60	F

FAQs

Where do I find the assignment instructions for each assignment? You will receive an assignment prompt or assignment sheet. The essay assignment will be announced in the beginning of the first half of the semester; the book roundtable project assignment will be announced at the beginning of the second half of the semester. Assignment instructions will also be posted on Blackboard. You should always closely reference the assignment sheet while working on any assignment. A note about quizzes: You will have a reading quiz each week, sometimes every day at the beginning of class during the reading of a text. Reading quizzes are

intended to motivate students to do the reading before coming to class and to help students recall what was covered in the reading before we dive into discussion.

How do I submit my work? All drafts and assignments are due **on Blackboard before class unless otherwise noted**. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to a computer and internet connection. Assignments are due by the deadline even if you miss class. **DO NOT** email me your assignment; I do not accept assignments through email. Use the Assignments folder on Blackboard to submit assignments. The portal will remain open for one week after each deadline, though you will incur a late penalty each day an assignment is late; I will not accept assignments more than one week late.

What if I turn in an assignment late? See the policy on late assignments, below.

I don't like my grade on an assignment. Can I talk to you about it? Absolutely! However, I ask that you wait 24 hours before discussing a grade on an assignment with me. Let the dust settle, so to speak. I am always willing to explain a grade and to suggest strategies for improvement. Understand, however, that discussing a grade is **not a negotiation** for a higher grade but rather an opportunity to improve subsequent work.

Can I get extra credit? No. There are no extra credit opportunities in this class. Too often, such exercises feel like busy work or grade grubbing. If you wish to improve your grade (and your skills), however, you may submit a special request to revise a previous assignment.

What is my current grade in the class? You can check your current grade average at any time by clicking My Grades on our Blackboard site. Reading quiz scores will be added to the Blackboard gradebook regularly, but some of the larger assignments will not be tallied until mid-semester and later.

POLICIES

Note: You are responsible for reading and understanding each of the following policies. If you have questions, please see me in office hours or speak to me after class. Be aware that these are policies, not negotiations.

Daily Expectations: Bring the required reading for the day, as well as paper and pencils to every class. I expect students to **come to class, do the reading, bring the reading to class, and be ready to discuss it aloud**. Failure to meet these basic expectations will significantly affect your ability to perform well (AKA earn a good grade) in this class! I reserve the right to ask you to leave if you repeatedly come to class unprepared or unwilling to participate. If disruptive or potentially threatening behavior occurs, I may contact Student Support Services. Additionally, in order to practice and improve your reading and comprehension skills, you must be willing to talk about your reactions and interpretations out loud. This is a safe environment; we are all learning and growing. Come to class with an open mind and a willing attitude.

Attendance and Tardiness: Attendance is required. It's simple: come to class. And come to class prepared. I take attendance every class (even if you don't hear me call roll). You may miss up to 2 classes without penalty, though you are responsible for any missed work. Please do not email

me asking to tell you “everything” you missed—you missed an entire class period, so it would take an entire class period for me to catch you up thoroughly. Instead, consult the class schedule on the syllabus, speak to your classmates, and borrow notes from a classmate or two. If you miss more than 2 classes without an acceptable formal, written excuse (usually for medical reasons or funeral services), your final grade will incur a penalty. For each absence in excess of 2, your final grade will drop one-third letter grade. For instance, if your final grade is a B-, your grade after a third absence would now be a C+. Furthermore, be considerate and come to class on time. Three instances of tardiness will equal one absence. Leaving class early also constitutes as tardiness.

Classes Cancelled /Campus Closings: Announcements of class cancellations and/or campus closings will be made on the campus home page. In the case of an emergency, weather-related or otherwise, please check the web page at www.kent.edu/stark for information on the buildings and times of the closing. While information may be broadcast by radio and television, this should be confirmed by the web page, which is the official announcement of the campus and which will be the information used to determine issues related to student attendance, rescheduling of tests, and other concerns.

Emergency Absences: If serious illness, family emergencies, or other crises occur during the term which may result in prolonged absence, you will need to obtain appropriate documentation in order to validate your absence. Even in cases of emergency and excused absences, you may not be able to fully make up assignments, especially if you missed peer review, quizzes, or in-class work. I reserve the right to determine the appropriate course of action depending on the circumstances.

Participation: Now that you are in class, you should chime in! Let your voice be part of the conversation. Ask questions. Make observations about the reading. Respond to others. Think of it another way: if I were to close my eyes and listen to a group of people talk one at a time, would I be able to identify your voice out of the crowd? If not, you probably haven't let your voice be heard enough for it to have made an impression. Historically, students who have conscientiously participated in my classes have earned higher grades than those who were content to be wallflowers. Engagement is key to success.

Late Assignments or Missed Work: All assignments are due on the date specified on the class schedule, **regardless of absence**. Do not email me your assignment; I do not accept assignments through email. If you are ill or otherwise unable to come to class, it is incumbent upon you to upload assignments to Blackboard before class. Blackboard portals will remain open for one week after an assignment deadline, so you may still turn in an assignment after the deadline, though you will incur a late penalty for each day late. Failure to submit assignments on time will result in a drop of one-third letter grade (e.g. a B+ becomes a B) each day until the work is submitted. This policy also applies to weekends and holidays. **I will not accept assignments more than one week late.** Additionally, I will not administer make-up quizzes or make-up in-class work, unless you can document extenuating circumstances (e.g. hospitalization, doctor-ordered bedrest, death in your immediate family). If you miss a quiz, you forfeit those points.

Classroom Etiquette: Just be respectful. Follow the golden rule. Speak in turn. Respond respectfully to others' opinions and statements. Don't leave class abruptly or without reason (you will get a zero for all class work that day). Silence your cell phone. Close all social media apps. Put your phone away. Don't distract others. Speak only when we are having an open discussion. Stay awake and attentive in class. I will not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in my classroom and reserve the right to ask you to leave if I feel necessary. It has happened! Conversely, feel free to eat and drink in class; but don't go overboard. You may leave class to use the restroom or get a drink without asking permission, but please do so quietly and courteously. All policies for classroom misconduct are discussed in the current Kent State *Code of Student Conduct*, which can be found here: <https://www.kent.edu/studentconduct/code-student-conduct>. Students are advised to read the policies carefully and know that I strictly adhere to them.

Academic Honesty: Use of the intellectual property of others without attributing it to them is considered a serious academic offense. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the work or for the entire course. Repeat offenses result in dismissal from the University. University guidelines require that all infractions be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Kent State University policy on academic honesty can be found at: <https://www.kent.edu/policyreg/administrative-policy-regarding-student-cheating-and-plagiarism>

Plagiarism: It's simple: don't plagiarize. If you think you may be plagiarizing, err on the side of caution and cite sources meticulously. Students have failed my courses before due to plagiarism. Any work that you submit must be your own; in addition, any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from other people and include in your work must be properly attributed and documented. Failure to do either of these things is plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing and abiding by University guidelines. Ignorance of the rules is not justification for plagiarism. In this course, the penalty for **plagiarism is probable failure of the course**, to be judged by me, and **a definite zero on the project**. You are responsible for seeking help if you are unsure about how or when to cite sources—librarians and myself are happy to help!

Notice of Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights: Any intellectual property displayed or distributed to students during this course (including but not limited to syllabus, power points, notes, quizzes, examinations) by me, Jessica Conrad, remains my intellectual property. This means that the student may not distribute, publish or provide such intellectual property to any other person or entity for any reason, commercial or otherwise, without the express written permission of myself, Jessica Conrad.

Students with Disabilities: University policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-244-5047 or visit <http://www.kent.edu/stark/student-accessibility-services> for more information on registration procedures).

LEARNING OUTCOMES – ENG 33002 – US LITERATURE FROM 1865 TO 1945

- Students will state an understanding of the historical and cultural backgrounds of U.S. literature during these years.
- Students will examine and identify literary works of various genres by representative writers.
- Students will articulate the different themes that reflect various national issues and concerns during these years.
- Students will apply techniques for extended literary analysis.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Assignments and readings are **due on** the date listed. You are required to bring readings to class on the day for which they are assigned. It is your responsibility to acquire the proper, specified edition and format of the text.

Note: The reading schedule moves at a steady clip with little to no breathing room in between texts. If you do not have a planner, strong self-discipline, and a desire to achieve, you'd better get them.

Discussion/Topic	Week	Date	Reading Due
Getting our Bearings	Week 1	Mon., 8/26	None
How to Read Like a Pro(f)		Wed., 8/28	Syllabus
The Prince and the Pauper: American Remix	Week 2	Mon., 9/2	Labor Day—NO CLASS
		Wed., 9/4	Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson, to chapter 8
	Week 3	Mon., 9/9	Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson, to chapter 14
		Wed., 9/11	Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson, to chapter 19
	Week 4	Mon., 9/16	Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson, to end
		Wed., 9/18	Chopin, Desiree's Baby. Harper, Minnie's Sacrifice, to chapter 11
	Week 5	Mon., 9/23	Harper, Minnie's Sacrifice, to end. Charles Chestnutt, The Wife of His Youth
		Wed., 9/25	Frederick Jackson Turner, from The Significance of the Frontier in American History
Adventures on the Frontier	Week 6	Mon., 9/30	Adventures of Buffalo Bill, selections
		Wed., 10/2	Zitkala-Sa, American Indian Stories
	Week 7	Mon., 10/7	Midterm
Fantasies	Week 7	Wed., 10/9	Lovecraft, Call of Cthulhu. Gilman, The Yellow Wallpaper
		Week 8	Mon., 10/14
	Wed., 10/16		Gilman, Herland, to chapter 7
	Week 9	Mon., 10/21	Gilman, Herland, to chapter 10
		Wed., 10/23	Gilman, Herland to end

Awakenings	Week 10	Mon., 10/28	Anderson, Hands. Hemingway, Hills Like White Elephants.
		Wed., 10/30	Chopin, The Awakening, to chapter 14
	Week 11	Mon., 11/4	Chopin, The Awakening, to chapter 26
		Wed., 11/6	Chopin, The Awakening to end
	Week 12	Mon., 11/11	Veteran's Day—NO CLASS (read!)
		Wed., 11/13	Larsen, Passing, to Part 3
Addictive Aspirations	Week 13	Mon., 11/18	Larsen, Passing, to end
		Wed., 11/20	Fitzgerald, Babylon Revisited; Parker, Big Blonde
I, Too, Sing America	Week 14	Mon., 11/25	Whitman packet, Harlem Renaissance Poets packet
		Wed., 11/27	Thanksgiving—NO CLASS
Wrapping Up	Week 15	Mon., 12/2	Roundtable Viewings
		Wed., 12/4	Final Exam Review
Final Exam		Wed., 12/11	10:30 am