

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGL 220—AMERICAN LITERATURE IN THE MODERN ERA: 1920--
PRESENT**

Prepared By: Emily Hamilton-Honey, PhD

April 2015

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH/ HUMANITIES**

MAY 2015

- A. **TITLE:** American Literature in the Modern Era: 1920-Present
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 220
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Determined by semester
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall or Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 3 lecture hours per week
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to acquaint students with significant American authors starting from 1920 and continuing to the present. Students study important American writers such as Baldwin, Steinbeck, Updike, Ginsberg, Roth, Larsen, Hurston, Porter, Millay, Hughes, Plath, and others. The historical, social, and political background for each period and the cultural changes and developments of the eras are also examined. Three hours lecture per week.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
 - a. Pre-requisite(s): ENGL 101 or ENGL 102
 - b. Co-requisite(s): none
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
a. explain orally and in writing of the literary, historical, and cultural context of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American writers.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
b. analyze literature using appropriate literary terminology and approaches, and share the results of the analysis for evaluation and/or peer review.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
c. compare the style and content of several authors on the same subject or in the same genre.	2. Critical Thinking
d. Apply research skills and MLA documentation.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
e. knowledge of the conventions and methods of at least one of the humanities in addition to those encompassed by other knowledge areas required by the General Education program.	2. Critical Thinking

K. TEXTS:

(Representative texts)

- Alexie, Sherman. *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. Grove Press, 2005. Print.
- Baldwin, James. *Another Country*. New York: Vintage, 1992. Print.
- . *The Fire Next Time*. New York: Vintage, 1992. Print.
- . *No Name in the Street*. New York: Vintage, 2007. Print.
- Bausch, Richard and R. V. Cassill, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. 7th ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 2006.
- Baym, Nina and Robert S. Levine, Eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: 1914-1945*. Vol. D. New York: W. W. Norton, 2012. Print.
- Baym, Nina and Robert S. Levine, Eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Literature Since 1945*. Vol. E. New York: W. W. Norton, 2012. Print.
- Erdrich, Louise. *Love Medicine*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2009. Print.
- Hass, Robert et al., eds. *American Poetry: The Twentieth Century, Vol. 1: Henry Adams to Dorothy Parker*. New York: Library of America, 2000. Print.
- Hass, Robert et al., eds. *American Poetry: The Twentieth Century, Vol. 2: E. E. Cummings to May Swenson*. New York: Library of America, 2000. Print.
- Honey, Maureen, ed. *Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance*. 2nd ed. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2006.
- Larsen, Nella. *The Complete Fiction of Nella Larsen: Passing, Quicksand, and the Stories*. New York: Anchor, 2001. Print.
- Patton, Venetria and Maureen Honey, eds. *Double-Take: A Revisionist Harlem Renaissance Anthology*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP: 2001. Print.
- Porter, Katherine Anne. *The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter*. New York: Mariner, 1979. Print.
- Pynchon, Thomas. *The Crying of Lot 49*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2006. Print.
- Roth, Philip. *American Pastoral*. New York: Vintage, 1998. Print.
- . *The Plot Against America*. New York: Vintage, 2005. Print.
- . *Portnoy's Complaint*. New York: Vintage, 1994. Print.

L. REFERENCES:

(Representative references)

- Brown-Guillory, Elizabeth, Ed. *Women of Color: Mother-Daughter Relationships in 20th Century Literature*. Austin, TX: U of Texas P, 1996. Print.
- Cheyfitz, Eric, Ed. *The Columbia Guide to American Indian Literatures of the United States Since 1945*. New York: Columbia UP, 2004. Print.
- Heise, Thomas. *Urban Underworlds: A Geography of Twentieth-Century American Literature and Culture*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2010. Print.

- Hutchinson, George, Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Harlem Renaissance*. New York: Cambridge UP, 2007. Print.
- Kalaidjian, Walter, Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism*. New York: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
- Kimmage, Michael. *In History's Grip: Philip Roth's Newark Trilogy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford UP, 2012. Print.
- Masden, Deborah L. *Beyond the Borders: American Literature and Post-Colonial Theory*. London: Pluto Press, 2003. Print.
- Mullen, Bill V. *Left of the Color Line: Race, Radicalism, and Twentieth-Century Literature of the United States*. Chapel Hill, NC: U of North Carolina P, 2006. Print.
- Raskin, Jonah. *American Scream: Allen Ginsberg's Howl and the Making of the Beat Generation*. Berkeley, CA: U of California P, 2006. Print.
- Yannella, Philip. *American Literature in Context After 1929*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. Print.

M. EQUIPMENT: technology enhanced classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Papers
- Participation

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: (must use the outline format listed below)

I. Introduction

- A. Reading Literature
- B. Elements of Literature
- C. Criticism of Literature
- D. Writing About Literature

II. The Harlem Renaissance

- A. Defining the Period
- B. Poets, Essayists, and Speakers, e. g.
 1. Paul Laurence Dunbar
 2. Alice Dunbar-Nelson
 3. Angelina Weld Grimke
 4. Langston Hughes
 5. Countee Cullen
 6. Claude McKay
 7. W. E. B. DuBois
 8. Richard Wright
 9. Alain Locke

C. Fiction and Narrative Writers, e. g.

1. Jessie Fauset
2. James Weldon Johnson
3. Jean Toomer
4. Nella Larsen
5. Zora Neale Hurston

III. American Modernism

A. Defining the Period

B. Modernist Poets and Essayists, e. g.

1. Ezra Pound
2. H. D.
3. Marianna Moore
4. Elizabeth Bishop
5. Amy Lowell
6. e. e. cummings
7. T. S. Eliot
8. William Carlos Williams
9. Edna St. Vincent Millay

C. Modernist Fiction and Narrative Writers, e.g.

1. William Faulkner
2. John Dos Passos
3. John Steinbeck
4. Sinclair Lewis
5. Katherine Anne Porter
6. Flannery O' Connor
7. John Cheever

IV. Postmodern and Contemporary Writers

A. Defining the Period

B. Postmodern and Contemporary Poets and Essayists, e. g.

1. Gwendolyn Brooks
2. Allen Ginsberg
3. Anne Sexton
4. Sylvia Plath
5. Adrienne Rich
6. Gloria Anzaldua
7. Maya Angelou
8. Jack Kerouac
9. Charles Olson

C. Postmodern and Contemporary Fiction and Narrative Writers, e. g.

1. James Baldwin
2. John Updike
3. Philip Roth
4. Louise Erdrich
5. Sherman Alexie
6. Toni Morrison
7. Thomas Pynchon

8. Doris Lessing

9. Gloria Naylor

VI. Conclusion

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None