

Jackson State Community College
ENGL2120: American Literature, 1865 to Present
Spring 2021 Syllabus

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Remind: Please join the class Remind, by texting the message @deamerica to 81010.

Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 12:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Course Description

Pre-Req: ENGL 1010; Recommended: ENGL 1020; Co-Req: None

A survey of American Literature from the American Civil War to today, emphasizing an exploration of American literary identity through an examination of literary trends, themes, and historical and political contexts. Literature courses may be taken in any order.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you:

- A. Should have acquired a broad background of American literary, philosophic, and religious heritage.
- B. Should be acquainted with specific literary works, terminology, techniques, and periods.
- C. Be able to recognize the common core of human values and concerns which transcends boundaries of time and space.
- D. Should understand literary works in the context of the period in which they were written.
- E. Should be able to relate the themes of literary works to ourselves and others.

Course Textbooks

The Norton Anthology of American Literature: 1865 to the Present, Shorter 9th edition
ISBN: 978-0393264531

Eugene O'Neill: Three Plays. ISBN: 978-0679763963

The Awakening by Kate Chopin. ISBN: 9780553213300

Attendance/Work Submission

As this is a dual enrollment class through JSCC, we will follow the structure of the course as taught at JSCC; however, we must also observe policies of JMCSS. For example, three tardies count as an absence. The dates for class and holidays/breaks follow the JMCSS calendar although submission of final grades must meet JSCC's deadline. This is a college course. You are a JSCC student as well as a Madison student. You are expected to assume responsibility for completing assignments (both reading and writing) in a timely and thorough manner. **For an assignment to receive full credit, you are accountable for submitting work due on its assigned date whether you are in class or not.** It is also your responsibility to see me about handouts or changes to the class schedule you missed due to an absence. I expect that all reading assignments be completed before the appointed date on the schedule (weekly syllabus), and that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. This means that you are required to bring your textbooks with you to each one of our classes. In classroom discussions, we will be mutually respectful to one another.

Of course, some of our class discussion will occur using a virtual platform (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams). The Zoom link will be the same each time we meet and can be found in Teams. Once in the class, on the left side of the screen, you will find a “channel” called Zoom Meeting Link. If you click on this channel you will find the link for your class’ Zoom meetings. When you click on the Zoom link, you will first enter a waiting room; after I have had a chance to mark you “present,” I will admit you to the Zoom meeting. You should use your first and last name to identify yourself rather than a nickname, number, or other label. Please note that these virtual meetings may be recorded.

Using a virtual platform for class may present unique challenges, such as unmuting yourself to ask a question or to make a comment or observation. Below are some guidelines/tips that may help you to participate more actively in the virtual classroom:

- Keep your camera on. Students are expected to keep their cameras on and to be visible (not just a ceiling fan or top of the head) throughout the class in order to be counted as present.
- Dress appropriately. While you do not have to wear uniforms during Zoom sessions, you are expected to be fully clothed in attire that will not be a distraction to the class. Something about being dressed for school helps class time to be more productive.
- Prepare. This should go without saying in a literature class, but I’m surprised each semester by how often students will skip the readings and go straight for an (inferior) online summary of the text to get by. Much of our focus will be on the language of the texts, rather than just a basic plot. To be able to discuss the language and construction of the texts, you will need to have actually read those texts. Have all documents/texts needed for class with you or open on your computer before the meeting begins.
- Minimize distractions. Try to find a quiet workspace, keep your cellphone put away, close unrelated tabs on your device, use Speaker View rather than Gallery View to reduce distractions and help you focus on the speaker or content being shared.
- Take notes. Much of the material that you will see on tests will come from notes and discussions we have during class. You can’t study for these tests if you don’t have notes.
- Improve visuals. Sit in a well-lit area with the light in front of you to prevent shadows.
- Improve audio. Use ear buds or headphones with a mic if your computer mic does not work well.
- Be respectful. Avoid talking over others. Your microphone will be set to mute when you enter the Zoom, but be mindful of muting and unmuting yourself for discussion.
- Chat wisely. You can utilize the chat feature to ask questions or make comments that are relevant to the discussion for the whole class; however, avoid cluttering the chat with extraneous “chit chat.”

Communication

Outside of class meetings, the class website and our Teams page are good places to find information. If you have reviewed information on the class website and in Teams and still have questions, the best way to contact me is through email (using your school email address) or through the Remind app listed at the top of this syllabus. I will try to answer promptly; however, I may not respond immediately.

Policy on Late Papers

Due dates for assigned work are clearly noted, and it is expected that students will comply with those due dates. **Late major assignments are accepted up to one week late, with a late penalty applied to the grade. No homework or quizzes will be accepted for late credit.**

Ten points will be deducted for each day that a major assignment is late.

Policy on Academic Honesty

Integrity is expected in all academic work. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that submitted work must be the student's own. Any sources used must be properly cited. Failure to adhere to this principle will result in a minimum penalty of zero on the assignment and other consequences as per JSCC policy.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's intellectual property and subsequent attempt to purport it to be your own. If you buy, borrow, or steal another person's ideas and present them as yours, **you will receive an 'F' for the assignment, and you will be referred to the disciplinary committee.**

Disability Accommodations

Students with diagnosed disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if they are determined eligible by the college's Disability Resource Center (DRC) staff. The instructor must receive a "Special Accommodations Agreement Form" signed by the DRC staff before granting disability related accommodations in this course.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the DRC and follow established procedures to be allowed accommodations by the instructor. All information about a student's actual disability(ies) is kept confidential.

The DRC is located in the Counseling and Career Services Office in the Student Center. Please contact the Dean of Students, Linda Nickell, at 731-424-3520 x50354 or at lnickell@jsc.edu. Information also is available on the JSCC website at: <http://www.jsc.edu/about-jackson-state/student-services/disabled-student-services.html>.

Class Participation

You are expected to participate in class discussions and/or small group activities. When attending virtually, you should keep your camera on and actively contribute the class discussion. Your understanding of the assigned texts is critical to your progress in the class. You are expected to take notes on the texts and discussions. Most importantly, have something prepared to discuss or a question to present to the class regarding one of the readings. Lively discussion is one of the most enjoyable aspects of reading and writing about literature!

Written Assignments

All final essays, journals, and projects must follow standard MLA format and must be compatible with MS Word. If I cannot open it, I cannot grade it; I will give the assignment a zero. Assignments will be submitted in Microsoft Teams, and documents may be submitted to a plagiarism checker. However, please note, just because an electronic plagiarism checker does not detect plagiarism does not mean that the work is plagiarism-free.

Format for Assignments

All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, with numbered pages. Documentation and citations should conform to the most current MLA specifications (8th Edition). **Your documents must be compatible with MS Word.**

Course Requirements and Grading

Your nine-weeks' grades will be determined as follows:

Grading Scale

Daily/Homework	10%	A—93–100
Quizzes	30%	B—85–92
Tests/Projects	60%	C—75–84
<u>*Course grade:</u>		D—70–74
1 st /3 rd Nine Weeks' Average	40%	F—0–69
2 nd /4 th Nine Weeks' Average	40%	
Final Exam	20%	

*Remember, course grades are reflected on both your high school and your JSCC transcripts.