NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

ENG 318: The American Novel – The Modernist Period

Oregon State University
Extended Campus
Winter 2016
4 Credits

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Chronological survey of the novel in America. Covers Modernist Period from Dreiser to Faulkner. (H) (Bacc Core Course)

Baccalaureate Core Course Attributes: Core, Pers, Lit and Arts, West Culture, Liberal Arts Humanities Core

For more information, contact: SCHOOL OF WRITING, LITERATURE AND FILM, MORE 238, 541-737-3244. Course Information: http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/students/courses

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Focusing on some of the prominent thematic, stylistic, historical, and cultural aspects of American modernism, this class will combine famous classics with important novels other than the ones commonly perceived as canonical. Through close textual analysis and active participation in ongoing class discussions, we will examine seminal works of American modernism that have paved the way for previously silenced voices, paying attention to the rise of nontraditional authors, characters, literary strategies, and subject matters.

This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

REQUIRED TEXTS
1. Willa Cather: My Ántonia (1918).
5. Ernest Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises (1926).

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.
This is a Baccalaureate Core course that belongs to two categories of learning outcomes: (1) Literature and the Arts. (2) Western Culture.

**BACC CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR LITERATURE AND THE ARTS**
1. Recognize literary and artistic forms/styles, techniques, and the cultural/historical contexts in which they evolve.
2. Analyze how literature/the arts reflect, shape, and influence culture.
3. Reflect critically on the characteristics and effects of literary and artistic works.

**BACC CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR WESTERN CULTURE**
1. Identify significant events, developments, and/or ideas in the Western cultural experience and context.
2. Interpret the influence of philosophical, historical, and/or artistic phenomena in relation to contemporary Western culture.
3. Analyze aspects of Western culture in relation to broader cultural, scientific, or social processes.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**
-- To broaden and deepen our understanding of contemporary American fiction.
-- To identify the main themes in the texts on our reading list and examine them from different perspectives: historical, cultural, political, stylistic, and so on.
-- To develop our ability to read, enjoy, think about, and respond to literature in critical and meaningful ways.
-- To strengthen our skills as scholarly writers.

**ASSIGNMENTS**
-- 5 discussion board assignments (500 words each, 20 points each). Stay tuned for my lecture notes on each novel and post a 500-word response. Longer responses are welcome. Articulate your responses in coherent, insightful, fully developed sentences. Be specific. Anchor your response in the text, demonstrating a close familiarity with the novels. Pay attention to major and minor characters, important events, key scenes, narrative strategies, and other literary components and devices. Do not use outside sources. You may also respond to posts and comments made by your classmates. Feel free to raise additional questions, suggest different interpretations, or propose other directions to explore and discuss. In any case, please remember to be critical but civilized. In other words, please feel free to disagree with posts made by other people, including your instructor, but keep in mind that arguments delivered in a polite and respectful manner are often more effective than outbursts of passionate refutation.

**REQUIREMENTS**
-- Buy the books.
-- Read the novels carefully. Follow our reading schedule and plan ahead.
-- Take notes while you read: underline or highlight key passages, write comments or annotations in the margins, identify important or difficult sections. Use the reading guides provided in the syllabus (p. 3). Feel free to make a list of questions about the text and raise them on the discussion board.
-- When writing your discussion board posts and final paper, please remember to avoid plot summary. Pay close attention to the complexity of the text and focus on analysis rather than
description. Many elements in our novels revolve around ambiguity, uncertainty, fragmentation, and fluid or dynamic identities. Your goal would be to examine the text from multiple points of view. Refrain from simplifying the narrative to an objective truth, bottom line, or single message. Respond to the assignments as accurately as you can while registering as many perspectives as possible.

-- Turn in all assignments on time. Late work may not be accepted.
-- Retain copies of all assignments.
-- If you need help, contact me as soon as possible. If you feel you are falling behind, act immediately. Send me an e-mail. I will respond in 48 hours or less.

OFFICIAL GRADING SCALE
94 - 100 = A
90 - 93 = A-
87 - 89 = B+
84 - 86 = B
80 - 83 = B-
77 - 79 = C+
74 - 76 = C
70 - 73 = C-
67 - 69 = D+
64 - 66 = D
60 - 63 = D-
0 - 59 = F

COURSE SCHEDULE
Week 1: Introduction. Reading: My Ántonia.
Week 2: Discussion board assignment: My Ántonia.
Week 3: Reading: Black No More.
Week 4: Discussion board assignment: Black No More.
Week 5: Reading: Nightwood.
Week 6: Discussion board assignment: Nightwood.
Week 7: Reading: The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.
Week 9: Reading: The Sun Also Rises.
Week 10: Discussion board assignment: The Sun Also Rises.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Please review carefully the information provided on the following webpage, including the various definitions of academic dishonesty:
http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that could result in a failing grade for the course or suspension from the university. Do not use outside sources when responding to our discussion board assignments or writing the final paper. If you have questions about the topic in general or a specific assignment, please contact me.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible
for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
If you need assistance using Canvas, access 24/7 help through the Help link at the top right within Canvas. If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, or require assistance logging into the course, contact the OSU Help Desk. You can call 541-737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu, or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

- COURSE DEMO
- GETTING STARTED

COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.