

English 2329--010 American Literature Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Stephens

Phone: (817) 272-2958

Office: 518 Carlisle

Email: sarahste@uta.edu

Time: 9:30-10:50 Tu-Th

Location: 306 Preston Hall

Office Hours: Tu-Th after 11:00 by appointment

Texts: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, shorter 7th ed. Volume II, ed. Baym et al. You will need to find online copies of the first two short stories on the syllabus. You will also need to secure your own copy of the novel you read for the in-class novel test and find an online copy of Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*. You will also need to purchase a package of scantrons for quizzes on the plays.

Course Description and Objectives: In this course, we will examine American literature from the point at which a national literature begins to emerge in the mid-nineteenth century and the genre of the short story in particular begins to flourish. The course is not designed to be a survey of American literature, and a glance at the table of contents of this second volume of the two-volume "shorter" edition clearly demonstrates the impossibility of reading and discussing the entire contents. Nonetheless, it is important that you be introduced to the historical and cultural contexts underlying the authors and texts studied; consequently, you should at least skim through the introductions to each section as well as the introduction to each assigned author and be prepared for questions in class as well as quizzes on the assigned readings. We will examine several representative works and authors from the mid-nineteenth century to the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, and we will also encounter several literary genres, with a particular emphasis on the short story. As the semester unfolds, you should become increasingly familiar with recurring themes and patterns in American literary history, and you should be able to demonstrate the ability to articulate your knowledge and insights in class discussion and quizzes, essay and extended paragraph exams, short response papers, and a short story comparison essay.

Attendance, Drop Policy, and Assignments: Roll will be taken primarily by way of the assignment quizzes. If for some reason you cannot continue in the class, please remember to drop officially by Friday, October 30. It is against university policy for professors to drop students from their classes. Please be on time for class, and make sure cell phones are turned off before you come into class. I can assume that students will have emergencies that come up; it would be hypocritical of me to assume otherwise considering that I had to miss a class two years ago for minor surgery. However, please plan on not missing more than two weeks total. It is difficult to stay up with a class you do not attend, and I will not teach the class as a correspondence course. In-class quizzes and assignments may not be made up, with the exception of tests and scantron quizzes on the plays. Essays and major assignments will be accepted after the due date, with the exception of the final test. However, there will be a five-point penalty beginning a week

after the due date, with five points for each class period the assignment is late. You will not be allowed to make up exams or turn in papers after they have been returned to the class graded, for obvious reasons. I plan to return major assignments within two weeks.

Evaluation and Assessment: Classes will likely begin with short reading quizzes on the assigned texts, with scantron quizzes on the plays counting as three quizzes; the scantron quizzes may be made up if done promptly. I will drop five quiz grades but no major grades. In addition, there will be two in-class short answer, extended paragraph, and/or essay tests, including a test on a novel chosen from a list of American novels; a “response” essay to a critical article; and a short story comparison essay. The comparison essay must be typed and documented according to MLA guidelines. A handout on that essay and on the novel test will be forthcoming. The final exam will be a typed take-home essay test. Participation in class discussion and attendance will also be taken into consideration, with a double quiz grade given at the end for class participation.

Exam One: 15% (test on Frost poems)
Exam Two: 15% (in-class novel test)
Exam Three: 15% (play comparison essay)
Critical article response: 15%
Comparison Essay: 20%
Quiz Average: 20%

Student Evaluation of Teaching: Toward the end of the semester, I shall ask your opinion on the success of the course by having you complete the Student Evaluation of Teaching Survey.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and the letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA], pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of the University of Texas at Arlington that **academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form.** All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Tentative Assignment Schedule (subject to change; skim author introductions, read primary texts carefully)

Tu	Aug 25	Syllabus given out and discussed
Th	Aug 27	Robert Frost: "Stopping by Woods" 787; "Mending Wall" 777
Tu	Sep 1	Frost: "The Wood-Pile" 783; "Birches" 785
Th	Sep 3	In-class preparation for group presentations (see handout)
Tu	Sep 8	Group presentations Quizzes # 1-2
Th	Sep 10	Irving: "Rip Van Winkle" ; Hawthorne: "Young Goodman Brown"
Tu	Sep 15	EXAM ONE: Frost poems
Th	Sep 17	Gilman: "The Yellow Wall-paper" 508-519 #3
Tu	Sep 22	Fitzgerald: "Babylon Revisited" 1025-1039 #4
Th	Sep 24	Hemingway: "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" 1067-1083 #5
Tu	Sep 29	Cheever: "The Swimmer" 1233-1241 #6
Th	Oct 1	Ellison: "Battle Royal" 1254-1264 #7
Tu	Oct 6	Baldwin: "Going to Meet the Man" 1381-1392 #8
Th	Oct 8	O'Connor: "Good Country People" 1393-1407 #9
Tu	Oct 13	EXAM TWO: Novel Test
Th	Oct 15	Morrison: "Recitatif" 1462-1475 #10
Tu	Oct 20	Updike: "Separating" 1485-1493 #11
Th	Oct 22	Roth: "Defender of the Faith" 1495-1515 #12 Article Précis due
Tu	Oct 27	Walker: "Everyday Use" 1596-1602 #13
Th	Oct 29	Cisneros: "Woman Hollering Creek" 1644-1651; Erdrich: "Fleur" 1655-1664 #14
Tu	Nov 3	Lahiri: "Sexy" 1682-1698 #15
Th	Nov 5	Essay conferences
Tu	Nov 10	STORY COMPARISON ESSAY DUE
Th	Nov 12	O'Neill: <i>The Hairy Ape</i> (online; have entire play read) #16-18
Tu	Nov 17	Continued
Th	Nov 19	Miller: <i>Death of a Salesman</i> 1286-1350 (have the entire play read) #19-21
Tu	Nov 24	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> cont.
Th	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
Tu	Dec 1	Film (in library)
Th	Dec 3	Film
Th	Dec 10	EXAM THREE—Final Exam on plays

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