

SYLLABUS
ENG 222:01 Survey of American Literature II
M/W/F 10:00-10:50, CHA 106
Spring 2009

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ENG 222 is the second half in a year-long survey of American literature. This course meets the Liberal Studies Area 5 (L5) requirement which states: "Courses acquaint students with significant works of artistic expression and with their historical and cultural contexts. They help them analyze and broaden their understanding of works of art, music, and literature and seek both to extend their aesthetic experience and enhance the quality of their critical judgment." In ENG 222, students will examine literature by American authors throughout the 20th Century. By the end of the course, students should be able to 1) identify significant writers and texts from the American literary tradition and 2) develop critical analyses with appropriate use of primary and secondary sources. Additionally, as members of a course in the English department, students are expected to 1) gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual and cultural activity; 2) learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view; 3) learn how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems; and 4) develop skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. New York: Penguin Books, 1996.
Roth, Philip. *American Pastoral*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.
Silko, Leslie Marmon. *Ceremony*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006.
Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003.
Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006.
Wilson, August. *Fences*. New York: Penguin Books, 1986.

Additional Reading Provided:

Anderson, Sherwood. "Godliness: A Tale in Four Parts"
Cather, Willa. "Neighbor Rosicky" and "Old Mrs. Harris"
Faulkner, William. "On Privacy: The American Dream," and "On Fear: The South in Labor"
Ginsberg, Allen. "America"
Hayden, Robert. "The Middle Passage"
Levine, Philip. "You Can Have It"
Torres, Eddie. "American Dream"

Secondary Materials Provided:

August, Eugene R. "Our Stories/Our Selves: The American Dream Remembered in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*." *University of Dayton Review*, 23:3 (Winter 1996-96), pp. 5-18.

- Harrison, Russell. "Poetry and the Working Class" in Against the American Dream: Essays on Charles Bukowski. Santa Rosa: Black Sparrow Press, 1994, pp. 69-93.
- Harvey, Sally Peltier. "Fulfillment Through Tradition and Family" in Redefining the American Dream. London: Associated University Presses, 1995, pp. 110-117.
- Hochschild, Jennifer L. "What is the American Dream?" Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class and the Soul of the Nation. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997, pp. 15-38.
- Hume, Kathryn. "The Failure of the Dream in Fiction" in American Dream, American Nightmare. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000, pp.266-292.
- Laughlin, Rosemary M. "Godliness and the American Dream in Winesburg, Ohio." *Twentieth Century Literature*, 13:2 (July 1967), pp. 97-103.
- Safer, Elaine B. "American Pastoral: The Tragicomic Fall of Newark and the House of Levov" in Mocking the Age: The Later Novels of Philip Roth. New York: State University of New York Press, 2006, pp. 79-100.
- Walton, J.E. "Death of a Salesman's Willy Loman and Fences's Troy Maxson: Pursuers of the Elusive American Dream." *CLA Journal*, 47:1 (2003), pp. 55-65.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Critical Essays: This course also meets the Writing Process requirement which states: "In writing-process courses, students learn to write according to the conventions and expectations of a particular discipline or field (e.g., biology, history, philosophy). These conventions and expectations will, of course, vary somewhat from course to course. However, all faculty in writing-process courses will teach writing as a process that begins with thinking about (and perhaps conducting research on) a topic, then articulating a tentative thesis or hypothesis, drafting an outline, and working through successive drafts of an essay before arriving at the finished product. Faculty will offer instruction in writing and will provide substantive written or oral feedback on students' written performance during the writing process. Evaluation of writing quality shall be an important factor in determining the course grade. Students in writing-process courses will write a minimum of 3,000 words in formal, out-of-class essays. In-class examinations and quizzes, laboratory notebooks, journals, diaries, and essays of fewer than 500 words may count toward the final course grade, but shall not count toward the 3,000-word minimum requirement." The major project for this course will be a series of four essays which explore the texts in addition to the critical work surrounding the literary works we are reading. All four essays combined will account for seventy percent of your final grade.

Attendance & Participation

Daily attendance is required for this course. If you are excessively absent, for any reason, you will not pass the course. Students are allowed a maximum of two (2) absences during the semester. If you miss more than two (2) classes, your final grade will be dropped a full letter grade. More than four (4) absences is cause for failing the course. Students who miss a class are responsible for any assignment due at the next class meeting. There is no such thing as an "excused" absence. Furthermore, this is a discussion based course. Participation accounts for fifteen percent of your grade. The quality and frequency of your contributions to our class discussions will weigh heavily in the calculation of that grade. If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, this is not the course for you.

Reading Quizzes

You will be expected to complete a short, multiple-choice quiz on Blackboard for every reading assignment listed in the syllabus. The combined average of these quizzes will account for fifteen percent of your final grade.

Conferences

You are required to meet with me outside of class at least twice during the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to schedule these meetings and to bring with you whatever you are currently working on or relevant questions pertaining to our class.

Late Work

All work must be turned in on time. I will not accept late work unless you have made a personal arrangement with me; essays turned in to my mailbox will not be accepted. If you are unable to turn in an assignment for emergency reasons, please inform me personally and as soon as possible. Please make use of my email if you are unable to contact me by phone. The decision of whether or not I accept late work, regardless of excuse, is solely mine.

Turnitin

In this course you may be asked to submit some or all of your assignments for review by an on-line plagiarism service. This service will compare the content of your work to content found on the internet and several proprietary databases. Any work submitted to this service may become part of the service's permanent collection of submitted papers. After your work is submitted, the service will generate an originality report which will be sent to your instructor. Any student who submits plagiarized work will be subject to the penalties outlined in LVC's Academic Honesty Policy found in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism

Please consult the college's academic honesty policy in the *Student Handbook* for policies concerning plagiarism and academic honesty. All policies and penalties for violations stated in these materials apply to our class.

Disabilities Services

If you have a physical, medical, psychological, or learning disability that is going to impact your attendance or require accommodation, please let me know. In order to ensure that your learning needs are appropriately met, you will need to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to the Director of Disability Services in Humanities 206-D, 867-6071. The Office of Disability Services will then provide a letter of verification of disability that describes the accommodations needed for this class.

THE GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade/Point Scale for English 222

Your final grade in English 222 will be based on the following point scale. Each assignment will be worth a varied amount of points as is noted below:

Assignment	Points Possible
Reading Quizzes	15 (Add all quiz totals together and divide by the number of quizzes)
Essay 1	10
Essay 2	15
Essay 3	20

Essay 4	25
Participation	15

Once all points have been awarded, add the total together and use the following scale to determine your final grade for the course:

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Wednesday, January 21 | First day of class |
| • Monday, February 9 | Final Draft of Essay 1 Due |
| • Wednesday, March 18 | Final Draft of Essay 2 Due |
| • Monday, March 30 | Outline Exercise Due |
| • Wednesday, April 15 | Final Draft of Essay 3 Due |
| • Wednesday, May 6 | Final Draft of Essay 4 Due |
| | Last Day of Classes |

Week 1

Wednesday, January 21

Assignment: Read: Jennifer Hochschild's essay, "What is the American Dream?" Be prepared to discuss in class tomorrow.

Friday, January 23

Assignment: Read the Preface and Introduction to *Ceremony* as well as pp. 1-75. Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Monday.

Week 2

Monday, January 26

Assignment: Read pp. 76-105 in *Ceremony*. Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Wednesday, January 28

Assignment: Read pp. 105-142 in *Ceremony*. Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday. Please note: this reading quiz is an ESSAY – you will need more time than usual. Please plan accordingly.

Friday, January 30

Assignment: Continue reading *Ceremony* (pp 142-186). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Monday.

Week 3

Monday, February 2

Assignment: Finish reading *Ceremony* (pp 187-233). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 4

Assignment: Write a tentative thesis statement for this first essay. Look through the novel and begin selecting passages that you might use to support your thesis. Bring these materials to class on Wednesday.

Friday, February 6

Assignment: Complete your first essay. Final draft of essay one due Monday, February 9.

Week 4

Monday, February 9

Essay One DUE

Assignment: Read chapters 1-4 (pp 5-53). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 11

Assignment: Read chapters 5-11 (pp. 54-115). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Friday, February 13

Assignment: Read chapters 12-18 (pp. 116-174). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Monday.

Week 5

Monday, February 16

Assignment: Read chapters 19-24 (pp. 175-232). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 18

Assignment: Read chapters 25-28 (pp 233-292). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Friday, February 20

Assignment: Finish Sinclair's *The Jungle* (pp. 251-328). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Week 6

Monday, February 23

Assignment: Read chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10. Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Monday.

Wednesday, February 25

Assignment: Read chapters 13, 16, 18. Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Friday, February 27

Assignment: Finish reading Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* over the break – EXCLUDE

chapters 19, 21, 23, and 25.

Week 7

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

Week 8

Monday, March 9

Assignment: Read Eugene August's essay, "Our Stories/Our Selves: The American Dream Remembered in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*." Be prepared to discuss on Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 11

Assignment: Write a tentative thesis statement for this second essay. Begin looking through the novels and selecting passages that will support your thesis statement.

Friday, March 13

Assignment: Write the rough draft of your second essay.

Week 9

Monday, March 16

Assignment: Complete the revisions of your essay – due Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 18

Essay Two DUE

Assignment: Read Faulkner's essays, come to class prepared to discuss.

Friday, March 20

Assignment: Read "Godliness: A Tale in Four Parts" and Rosemary Laughlin's essay "Godliness and the American Dream in Winesburg, Ohio." Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Week 10

Monday, March 23

Assignment: Read Cather's "Neighbor Rosicky" and "Old Mrs. Harris" as well as Harvey's article on both in the chapter titled "Fulfillment Through Tradition and Family." Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 25

Assignment: Read Allen Ginsberg's "America," Eddie Torres' "American Dream," Robert Hayden's "Middle Passage," Philip Levine's "You Can Have It," and select poems by Charles Bukowski. Read Harrison's article "Poetry and the Working Class."

Friday, March 27

Assignment: Complete the outline exercise – due Monday.

Week 11

Monday, March 30

Outline Exercise DUE

Assignment: Read Act One of *Death of a Salesman* (pp 7-69).

Wednesday, April 1

Assignment: Finish reading *Death of a Salesman*.

Friday, April 3

Assignment: Finish reading *Fences*. Also read Walton's article "Death of a Salesman's Willy Loman and Fences's Troy Maxson: Pursuers of the Elusive American Dream."

Week 12

Monday, April 6

Assignment: Begin drafting your essay – final draft due when we return from break.

Wednesday, April 8

Assignment: Continue working on your essay – due Wednesday, April 15. Have a good break!

Friday, April 10

EASTER BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 13

Monday, April 13

EASTER BREAK – NO CLASS

Wednesday, April 15

Essay 3 Final Draft - DUE

Assignment: Read chapters 1 and 2 in *American Pastoral* (pp. 3-59). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Friday, April 17

Assignment: Read chapters 3 and 4 in *American Pastoral* (pp. 60-174). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Monday.

Week 14

Monday, April 20

Assignment: Read chapter 5 in *American Pastoral* (pp. 175-231). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Wednesday, April 22

Assignment: Read chapter 6 in *American Pastoral* (pp. 232-281). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Friday.

Friday, April 24

Assignment: Finish reading *American Pastoral* (pp. 285-423). Take the reading quiz on Blackboard between 7 and 10 a.m. on Monday.

Week 15

Monday, April 27

Assignment: Read Safer's article titled "American Pastoral: The Tragicomic Fall of Newark and the House of Levov."

Wednesday, April 29

Assignment: Begin drafting essay 4 – due Wednesday, May 6. Read "The Failure of the American Dream in Fiction" – come to class prepared to discuss.

Friday, May 1

Assignment: Continue working on your final essay – due Wednesday, May 6th.

Week 16

Monday, May 4

NO CLASS – COMPLETE THE IDEA EVALUATION

Assignment: If you have not already done so, please complete the IDEA online evaluation for our class. Final essays due Wednesday.

Wednesday, May 6

LAST DAY OF CLASSES – ESSAY 4 DUE