

LITT 2105-001 Fall 2005

American Literature II

MWF 11:20am-12:35pm, Room C-012 (M&W); B-125 (F)

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Jacobson

Office phone: (609) 626-5581 **Office Location:** J-236

Email: Please use our WebCT email

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30-5:30; Wednesdays 1pm-2pm; and by appointment

Mailbox: Arts and Humanities, K-150

Required Texts:

- ***The Heath Anthology of American Literature: Vols. C, D, E***
- **WebCT:** If you have questions about using WebCT, consult a lab assistant or your instructor.
- **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th Edition**

Additional Resources:

- **Stockton Libraries:** <http://library.stockton.edu/>
 - **Periodical Databases:**
http://library.stockton.edu/Library_Databases/Dbases_table.html
 - **Language and Literature links:**
http://library.stockton.edu/Web_Resources/lang.html
- **Heath Anthology Webpage:**
<http://college.hmco.com/english/lauder/heath/5e/students/index.html>

Course Description: What does it mean when one of America's most *American* of writers—Toni Morrison—has written, “At no point in my life have I ever felt as though I were an American”? *What does it mean to be an American?* What themes and authors best define American literature? What criteria should be used to explore such questions? What do our criteria tell us about our own values? To address such questions this course surveys significant works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from the late nineteenth century to the contemporary period. We will track and interrogate enduring American issues and values. The authors we read will include those long considered “major” as well as relatively “new” editions to the canon. We will read literature from a variety of traditions, including “mainstream” and “regional” or “folk” literatures. Special attention will be paid to white, Native American, Latino/a, African American, Jewish, southern, and feminist traditions. This cacophony of voices will provide opportunities to discuss American *ideals* as well as American *realities*. Throughout the semester you will be working on the course's capstone project: your own critical anthology of American literature. This project will allow you to explore one specific theme, author, genre, or literary movement in greater depth.

Course Requirements: You will be expected to:

- (1) **Attend class meetings and be prepared.** That means DO THE READING; this is a discussion-based class and if you haven't done the reading, you won't be able to contribute and the class (as well as your grade) will suffer accordingly;
 - a. **Attendance**—you are allotted three absences during the semester for fatigue, burnout, cocktail flu, personal reasons, malfunctioning alarm clocks, etc. For each absence after your first three, your final grade **will be reduced five points per additional absence**, down to and including “F.” Regular class attendance is a crucial component to passing this course.
- (2) **Participate in large and small group class discussions.** This course is what you make of it and will work *only* if everyone participates;
- (3) **Complete all assignments.** Passing the course requires timely completion of ALL of the assignments, long and short, in-class and out-of-class.

Grades

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| • Talking Points Assignment (100 points each) | 200 |
| • Midterm Exam | 200 |
| • Final Exam | 200 |
| • Close Reading Papers (100 points each; 2 total; 1 before midterm; 1 after) | 200 |
| • Anthology Paper | 200 |

Total– 1000

- Regular spirited class participation may assist borderline final grades.
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Grading Scale

100-95: A	89.9-87: B+	79.9-77: C+	69.9-67: D+
94.9-90: A-	86.9-83: B	76.9-73: C	66.9-63: D
	82.9-80: B-	72.9-70: C-	62.9-60: D-
			59.9 & below: F

Assignments

- **Talking Points Assignment** (100 points each): For this assignment you will sign up for two different class periods (one before and one after midterm). On those days you will be responsible for crafting 4 discussion questions based on the day's reading. These questions will be distributed to the class and instructor via WebCT at least 24 hours in advance.
 - **Midterm and Final Exams**: These exams will be closed book. They will consist of objective questions (e.g., multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank), text identification and explication, and short and/or long essay questions.
 - **Close Reading Papers** (100 points each; 2 total; 1 before midterm; 1 after; 2-3 typed pages each): These papers will conduct close readings of two of the assigned readings. One reaction paper should conduct a close reading of a poem and another a piece of prose. See assignment description for more information.
 - **Anthology Paper**: This paper will produce your own sheaf or cluster—a mini critical anthology—of American literature. You will select no fewer than three and no more than five texts or excerpts to include in it. You will write an introduction to the mini-anthology and introduce each text included in it. See assignment description for more information.
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Email Policy:

1. Use WebCT email for all course-related correspondence.
 2. I check my email each day in the morning. Please plan your email questions accordingly.
 3. Visit my office hours with specific questions about course material. I will not respond to email questions about class content if you were absent; contact a classmate with these queries and then visit office hours.
 4. I will not discuss grades over email. Grades should be discussed in person during office hours or other arranged meetings.
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Accommodation for Students with Special Needs: Stockton College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations should contact the Learning Access Program located in the West Quad Building, Suite 110 or by call 652-4988. Additional information on the program may be obtained from Stockton web site <http://www2.stockton.edu/wellness/lap.html>.

Academic Dishonesty: Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and risk failing the course. Other sanctions may also apply.

Syllabus—LITT 2105—Fall 2005¹

Unit 1—Late Nineteenth Century 1865-1910

Week 1: Introductions, Themes and Questions

- **Sept 7:** Introduction to course, assignments, students and instructor.
- **Sept 9:** “Late Nineteenth Century” 1-34. Sign up for Talking Points.

Week 2: Nation, Regions, Borders

- **Sept 12:** “Nations, Regions, Borders” 35-37; African American Folktales 37-38; 45-49; Clemens 56-62; Chestnutt 119-20; 126-34.
- **Sept 14:** “Cluster” 155-70.
- **Sept 16:** Burton 246-55; Crane 489-90; 513-20; London 524-36.

Week 3: Critical Visions of Postbellum America

- **Sept 19:** “Critical Visions of Postbellum America” 537; Standing Bear 538-41; Eastman 542-47; Winnemucca 554-66.
- **Sept 21:** Sinclair 606-21.
- **Sept 23:** Adams 621-23; 634-42.

Week 4: Developments in Women’s Writing

- **Sept 26:** Spofford 665-75; Jewett 693-701.
- **Sept 28:** Freeman 712-33; Hopkins 734-47.
- **Sept 30:** Sheaf of Poetry 748-66.

Week 5: The Making of “Americans”

- **Oct 3:** “The Making of ‘Americans’” 767-68; Cahan 768-75; Martí 829-38.
- **Oct 5:** Eaton 776-86; Watanna 793-800; Bonnin 809-10; 819-21.
- **Oct 7:** Austin 800-8; Antin 821-29.

Unit 2—Modern Period 1910-1945

Week 6: Toward the Modern Age

- **Oct 10:** “Modern Period” 839-66; “Toward the Modern Age” 867-68.
- **Oct 12:** Washington 868-85; Du Bois 894-910.
- **Oct 14:** Glaspell 1040-50; Frost 1058-61; Millay 1099-7. **Anthology Paper Topic Due.**

Reminder: 1 Close Reading Paper Due Before Midterm

Week 7: Alienation and Literary Experimentation

- **Oct 17:** “Alienation and Literary Experimentation” 1108-9; Pound 1109-13; Eliot 1278-83; 1291-94.
- **Oct 19:** O’Neill 1175-1208.
- **Oct 21:** Stein 1145-49; Cummings 1269-78; Porter 1387-94; Faulkner 1436-48. **Final Day to Pass in Close Reading Paper One.**

Week 8: Clusters: Political Poetry and Modernism, Lyric Poetry, Facts

- **Oct 24: Midterm Exam**
- **Oct 26:** Political Poetry 1235-68.
- **Oct 28:** Modernism, the Lyric and Facts 1313-23.

Week 9: The New Negro Renaissance

- **Oct 31:** “The New Negro Renaissance” 1487-90; Locke 1490-1500; Schuyler 1618-24; Blues Lyrics 1624-33.
- **Nov 2:** Hughes 1519-28; 1540-45; Hurston 1577-94.
- **Nov 4:** Final Paper Library Research and Writing Day.

Week 10: Issues and Visions in Modern America

- **Nov 7:** “Issues and Visions in Modern America” 1634-35; Bourne 1635-48; Yeziarska 1648-56; Dos Passos 1675-80.
- **Nov 9: Preceptorial Advising (No Classes)**
- **Nov 11:** Warren 1764-67; Wright 1807-33; Carved on the Walls 1873-81.

¹ Class Schedule subject to changes with notice. Readings and assignments are listed on the day they are due.

Unit 3—Contemporary Period 1945 to the Present

Week 11: Earlier Generations: Cold War Culture & Its Discontents

- **Nov 14:** “Contemporary Period” 1883-86; “Earlier Generations” 1887-90; Olson 1934-43; Bishop 1952-1960; Rukeyser 1998-2004.
- **Nov 16:** Bulosan 2005-12; O’Connor 2216-28; Albee 2302-7.
- **Nov 18:** A Sheaf of Poetry and Prose from the Beat Movement 2229-72.

Week 12: Earlier Generations: Cold War Culture & Its Discontents

- **Nov 21:** Ellison 2030-31; 2036-48; Baldwin 2193-2215.
- **Nov 23:** Brooks 2142-53; Plath 2330-40; **Anthology Paper Due.**
- **Nov 25:** NO CLASSES—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 13: New Generations: Postmodernity and Difference

- **Nov 28:** “New Generations: Postmodernity and Difference” 2345-54; Barthelme 2432-37; Anzaldúa 2738-63; Dove 2970-74.
- **Nov 30:** Lorde 2489-98; Rivera 2533-40; Pynchon 2566-76; Harper 2614-19.
- **Dec 2:** Sheaf of Vietnam Conflict Poetry and Prose 2382-2431; Nguyen 3091-3102.

Week 14: New Generations: Postmodernity and Difference

- **Dec 5:** Oates 2620-32; Bambara 2639-45; Chin 2646-51; Mukherjee 2693-2703.
- **Dec 7:** Cluster: Prison Literature 2652-79.
- **Dec 9:** Mason; 2712-24; Hagedorn 2855-56; 2867-72; Alexie 3079-86; Danticat 3086-91.

Reminder: 1 Close Reading Paper Due Before the Final

Week 15: New Generations: Postmodernity and Difference

- **Dec 12: FINAL EXAM** (11:30-2pm)
- **Dec 14:** No Class Meeting—Fall Term Extended Class Schedule
- **Dec 16:** Final Class Meeting. American Literature Book Club.

