

DATE ADOPTED: 1984

DATE REVIEWED: 1986, 1987, 1990, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2014

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Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

Jefferson State Community College

ENG 252 American Literature II

I. ENG 252 American Literature II – 3 Semester Hours

II. Course Description

This course is a survey of American literature from the middle of the 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on representative works and writers of this period and on the literary, cultural, historical, and philosophical forces that shaped these works and that are reflected in them. Upon completion and in written compositions, students will be able to interpret the aesthetic and thematic aspects of these works, relate the works to their historical and literary contexts, and understand relevant criticism and research.

III. Prerequisite

ENG 102 or equivalent

IV. Textbook

*Norton Anthology of American Literature – Vols C, D, & E.*_Baym. Latest Edition.
Norton Publishing

V. General Course Competencies

To complete this course, the student must have, in the instructor's judgment, a reasonable mastery of the following competencies:

- A. The ability to analyze examples of major works of the period
- B. The ability to understand the relationships between the writers and their times
- C. The ability to understand literary terms appropriate for the period
- D. The ability to understand literary scholarship and its relation to the primary literary works
- E. The ability to recognize the role that the assigned literature has played in creating the cultural and philosophical foundations of contemporary society

VI. Course Objectives stated in Performance Terms

During the course, the student will do the following under the guidance of the instructor:

- A. Analyze examples of major works of the period
 - 1. Analyze major prose works

2. Analyze major works of poetry
3. Identify characteristics of literary periods
- B. Understand the relationships between writers and their times
 1. Identify cultural conditions of the writers and their times
 2. Identify historical forces of the times
 3. Identify philosophical movements of the times
- C. Understand and use literary terms for the period
 1. Identify key terms for genres of literature and literary movements
 2. Analyze literature, using literary terms correctly
- D. Understand literary scholarship and its relation to primary literary works
 1. Locate valid secondary sources
 2. Use secondary sources effectively in the analysis of literary works
- E. Recognize the role the assigned literature has played in creating the cultural and philosophical foundations of contemporary society
 1. Trace connections between contemporary society and cultural movements of the period
 2. Trace connections between philosophical issues of contemporary society and those of the literary period

VII. Class Activities

- A. Read assignments
- B. Listen to lectures or read lecture notes (based on course delivery mode)
- C. Participate in discussions, group work, oral presentations, etc.
- D. Complete examinations and/or quizzes
- E. Write papers using primary and secondary sources

VIII. Evaluation and Assessment

The student will take at least two examinations that are devised to assess student achievement of course objectives. Quizzes and/or discussions may be used to encourage and to assess the student's reading of assigned literature.

The student will write at least two major compositions that together analyze, synthesize, and evaluate literary works. At least one of the compositions will demonstrate the student's knowledge and understanding of literary research and scholarship.

To complete this course, the student must be able, in the instructor's judgment, to demonstrate a reasonable mastery of the objectives stated above.

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

IX. Attendance

Class attendance is an essential part of the educational process at Jefferson State, and students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered to facilitate their academic success. In general, academic performance is impacted by the number of classes a student attends. Financial Aid and other scholarship programs may require stringent attendance. Student absences in all courses (traditional, hybrid, online, etc.) are calculated from the first official day of class. Attendance in Internet and/or Hybrid courses is based on documentable participation in class activities, such as interacting with the instructor and with enrolled students, attending required on-campus meetings and/or submitting course assignments. If a student has excessive absences and is in jeopardy of failing the course, she/he is encouraged to consult with the instructor. Instructors will not

withdraw students for any reason. If a student fails to officially withdraw from a course, this failure could result in a grade of “F”. Students receiving financial aid or scholarships should consult the Financial Aid Department or their scholarship coordinator to determine how an “F” or “W” may affect their tuition assistance. Students withdrawing from a course after the Withdrawal date has passed will receive a WP (withdraw passing) or a WF (withdraw failing) in the course.

X. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

XI. Americans with Disabilities

Jefferson State Community College is compliant with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended in 2008. Students having known disabilities requiring academic accommodations should contact the ADA Accommodations Office for an appointment (arsherman@jeffersonstate.edu) or 205-856-6077.

XII. Statement on Literary Content (Communications Division)

In the classroom, instructors have full freedom to discuss their subjects. They should not introduce into their teaching irrelevant controversial matter. Within this limitation, the college protects the rights of both the students and instructors to a “free search for truth in its exposition.” The nature of literature discussion in class is not to advance a religious or political agenda, but to raise universal questions about human nature and engage reaction. Therefore, the experience of literature is bound to involve controversial subject matter at times. In the classroom, open expression of ideas and opinions is not only allowed but required, and students must be willing to respond honestly to literary texts. Predetermination of the material that would offend any individual is neither possible, nor a desirable course of action. Eliminating certain works from the reading list would be tantamount to (the same as) censorship. Changing the original text in any way only serves to distort it. Our goal in the Communications Division is to enhance intellectual growth, not to limit it.

XIII. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Direct assessments will be made in accordance with the current class Student Learning Outcomes (SLO). This assessment will not be used to figure grades for the class, but will be used to determine class success within current SLO addressed areas. Direct assessment SLO will change every three year cycle.