

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 242

Credits: 3

Course Title: Survey of American Literature II

Course Description: Examines selected American literary works from the late-nineteenth century to the present, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of our national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 242 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: ENG 242 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for humanistic study, and promotes an understanding of selected American literature from the pre-colonial period through the mid-nineteenth century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 242 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, and substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Students will produce at least 12 pages (3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and at least 12 pages (3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe, analyze, and interpret themes and features of literary texts from a variety of genres, using appropriate literary terminology;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary movements covered in the survey, including literary techniques, innovations, major writers, and major texts;
- c. Explain the relationship between literature and the historical and cultural contexts in which it is produced, with particular attention to the shaping of cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- d. Compose writing about literature that includes clear and concise argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation; and
- e. Use literary study as a means for engaging in meaningful and enduring questions across human cultures.

Major Topics to Be Included:

Students may expect to study the following:

- a. American writing and writers from the late-nineteenth century to the present era
- b. Literary genres including, but not limited to, poetry, fiction, essay, and drama
- c. Literary and artistic movements such as realism, naturalism, modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, the Lost Generation, the Southern Renaissance, the Beat Generation, and postmodernism
- d. Critical literary and artistic vocabularies that engage oral and written discussions with the language of the discipline
- e. Literary writing within the broader contexts of social, political, gender, racial, and class concerns

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