English 204: American Literature since 1900  
Spring 2012  
TTh 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

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Spring 2012 Office Hours:  
Monday 12 – 1 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday 9 – 10 a.m., and by appointment.

Text: *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*  

Course Description: English 204 is a continuation of English 203, although English 203 is not a prerequisite. The course will be divided into 3 units:

- The Era of Literary Realism (from the late 19th-century to World War I)
- The Era of Literary Modernism (from WW I to WW II)
- The Era of Post-Modern Literature (from WW II to the present)

In each unit we will study the literary movement under discussion and read texts that represent or “resist” those movements. You are much more likely to earn a good grade in this course if you have taken and passed English 102 with a grade of C or higher.

Course Objectives: Students who pass this class with a “C” or better will be able to:

- Through writing and discussion, identify and compare the major themes and movements of American literature produced since 1900.
- Through writing and discussion, identify and interpret the literary elements, styles, and forms of a selection of literary works from this period.
- Through writing and discussion, analyze the interaction among American culture, society, and literature from this period.

Course Expectations: As students in my class, I expect you to:

- Complete your all reading and writing assignments prior to class.
- Bring your textbook with you to class.
- Arrange at class on time and remain in class for the entire period. [Anyone who leaves class during an exam will be considered finished with the exam.]
- Exhibit respectful behavior toward everyone in the classroom.
- Turn off and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices while in class.
- Be prepared to participate in class discussions and any written, in-class work.
- Contact me prior to or immediately after any class absence.
**Attendance and Tardiness:**

Missing an excessive number of classes (more than 3) will have a negative effect on your grade. When you are absent you risk missing quizzes or other in-class assignments (which cannot be made up—see below), missing important announcements, missing the chance to participate in class discussions, and/or missing important notes and information that will be included on exams.

If you miss a class, please contact me—not to offer an excuse but as a simple courtesy and to find out what you have missed.

Being late to class once or twice in a semester is not a problem. Being late to class more often than that is a problem, however, and you will be asked to resolve the issue immediately, either by arriving at class on time or by withdrawing from the class.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:**

Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any assignment (including those in all electronic media) submitted by a student must be of the student's original authorship. Representation of another's work as your own shall constitute plagiarism.

Plagiarism is defined as any representation of the thoughts and/or words of another as your own. This definition includes everything from “borrowing” a paper from a roommate to forgetting to include a parenthetical citation as well as a host of other possibilities. Plagiarism is a serious offense and I will treat it as such in our class. Please be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and familiarize yourself with Morrisville State College’s policy regarding plagiarism.

**Special Needs:**

If you have any learning preferences that need to be accommodated in our classroom, please inform me of them no later than the second week of classes. This will ensure that your accommodations can be met.

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**Grades:**

- 3 Exams (15% each): 45%
- 2 Papers (20% each): 40%
- Quizzes & other in-class graded work, including class participation: 15%

The grades you receive during the semester will be numerical. When I compute your interim and final grades, I will convert your numerical grade to a letter grade based upon the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 – 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 – 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 – 86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77 – 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>67 – 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 – 66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 64</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments and Course Work:**

PowerPoint slides, class notes, exam preview sheets, and assignment sheets for papers are available on Blackboard (http://www.morrisville.edu/bbwebct/).

The **Exams** will consist of objective questions (short answer, identification, etc.) and essay questions.

You will write 2 **Papers** for this class. Paper #1 can be submitted anytime before the official due date. Everyone will submit Paper #2 on the last day of class. You will be required to submit at least a Thesis Statement prior to each final paper. More details about the paper assignments will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

**Quizzes** will be given almost always during the first 5-10 minutes of class. At the end of class you may be asked to write “1-minute papers” that summarize the material covered in class that day or respond to a question based on the day’s discussion.

Most quizzes are objective in nature and graded out of 100 points (extra credit questions may be offered on some quizzes). Some quizzes, as well as the 1-minute papers, will be more subjective in nature and graded “+” (excellent), “√” (satisfactory), or “-“ (unsatisfactory).
Make-Up and Late Work:

- Make-up exams can generally be arranged, but only under dire circumstances. If you request a make-up exam, be prepared to demonstrate that you deserve one.
- In-class work and quizzes cannot be made up. My policy is to quiz frequently, dropping the lowest quiz grade at interim grades and the two lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester. Therefore, one or two missed quizzes or low grades should not hurt your overall average.
- Computer and/or printer problems are not, under any circumstances, a suitable excuse for submitting an assignment late.

Any schedule changes will be announced in class.

ENGL 204 Schedule:

UNIT #1: The Snapshot

Th 1/19
- Literary Realism
- Ambrose Bierce “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” [link]

T 1/24
- Samuel L. Clemens From The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Chapters 1-7, 15, and 31) [link]

Th 1/26
- About Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1596-1597) and “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1597-1618)
- About Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (1642-1644) and “The Revolt of ‘Mother’” (1644-1655)

T 1/31
- About Kate Chopin (1517-1519) and “Désirée’s Baby” (1519-1523)
- Charles Chesnutt “The Wife of His Youth” [link]

Th 2/2
- About Stephen Crane (1555-1557) and “The Open Boat” (1557-1573)

T 2/7
- About Henry James (1454-1456) and “Daisy Miller: A Study” (1456-1495)

Th 2/9
- About Amy Lowell (1836-1837) and “Patterns” (1838-1840)

- About Edna St. Vincent Millay (1824-1825) and “Spring” (1825-1826) and “The Spring and the Fall” (1826)

T 2/14
About Robert Frost (1799-1800) and:
- “Mending Wall” (1800-1801)
- “After Apple-Picking” [link]
- “The Road Not Taken” (1801-1802)
- “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” (1803-1804)
- “Desert Places” (1804)

Th 2/16
- EXAM #1

T 2/21 & Th 2/23
- No Class—Winter Break

UNIT #2: The Feast

T 2/28
- Modernism
About Ezra Pound (1831-1832) and:
- “In a Station of the Metro” (1833)
- “L'art, 1910” (1833)
About William Carlos Williams (1850-1852) and:
- “The Great Figure” [link]
- “Red Wheelbarrow” (1856)
- “Danse Russe” (1852)

Th 3/1
William Carlos Williams
- “The Young Housewife” (1853)
- “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” [link]
- “Spring and All” (1853-1854)

T 3/6
About e. e. cummings (1896) and:
- “in Just-” [link]
- “Buffalo Bill’s” (1897)
- “anyone lived in a pretty how town” [link]
- “since feeling is first” [link]
- “into the strenuous briefness” [link]
Th 3/8
- About T. S. Eliot (1900-1901) and “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (1901-1905)

T 3/13
- About F. Scott Fitzgerald (1920-1921) and “Babylon Revisited” (1922-1936)
- About Ernest Hemingway (1949-1950) and “Hills Like White Elephants” (1950-1954)

Th 3/15
- The Harlem Renaissance
- About Countee Cullen (2020) and “Incident” (2021)
- About Claude McKay (2043) and:
  - “If We Must Die” (2044)
  - “America” (2045)
- About Langston Hughes (2006-2007) and:
  - “Mother to Son” [poemhunter.com/poem/mother-to-son/]
  - “I, Too” (2010)

T 3/20
About Zora Neale Hurston (2034-2035) and:
- “How It Feels to be Colored Me” [http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/eng/composition/diagnostic/how_it_feels.pdf]
- “Sweat” (2034-2042)

Th 3/22
- PAPER #1 due

T 3/27
About William Faulkner (1960-1961) and "Barn Burning" (1962-1974)

Th 3/29
- EXAM #2

T 4/3 & Th 4/5
- No Class—Spring Break

UNIT #3: Diving Into the Wreck

T 4/10
- About Adrienne Rich (2346-2347) and “Diving Into the Wreck” (2347-2349)
- About Flannery O’Connor (2240-2241) and “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (2242-2252)

Th 4/17
- About Edward Albee (2290-2291) and “The Sandbox” (2291-2295)

T 4/19
About Sylvia Plath (2594-2595) and:
- “Lady Lazarus” (2598-2600)

About Anne Sexton (2343-2344) and:
- “Housewife” (2345)
- “Her Kind” (2345)

T 4/24
- About Maxine Hong Kingston (2476-2477) and “No Name Woman” (2477-2485)
- About Dorothy Allison (2520-2521) and “Don’t Tell Me You Don’t Know” (2521-2530)

T 5/1
- About Sherman Alexie (2352-2353) and “Because My Father Always Said…” (2553-2559)
- Sandra Cisneros “My Lucy Friend Who Smells Like Corn” [https://psportal.hbuhsd.org/Public%20Content/CJ106984/mylucyfriend.pdf]

Th 5/3
- EXAM #3

T 5/8
- Conference & workshop on Paper #2

Th 5/10
- PAPER #2 due