

E316K Masterworks of Literature: American

Professor John M González
Office: 321 PAR
Office Hours: MWF 11-noon
Office phone: 471-8117

Course Time: MWF 9-10
Course location: FAC 21
Unique Numbers: 34315-34350
Email: jmgonzal@mail.utexas.edu

Course description: This course will trace the origins and development of literature in the United States from the nation's founding through the late twentieth century. Given the radical social changes during this period in gender, racial, and class terms, how did American literature emerge as both symptom and critique of these conditions? What were the features of this new national literature, and how did it influence popular culture? Situating these texts within their social context will be a major feature of this course.

Reading List: All texts are available at the Campus Coop. They are also on one-day reserve at the Perry-Castañeda Library.

Ed, George McMichael
Kate Chopin
Frederick Douglass

Concise Anthology of American Literature, 7th ed.
The Awakening
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Evaluation Criteria: The course grade will consist of: section attendance and participation, including weekly quizzes as given by individual section instructors (25%); three examinations (25% each). *Failure to complete all required coursework will result in a failing course grade.*

Plus/minus grading will be used for the final course grade. Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. To ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will not be rounded up or down at any stage. Thus a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 80.000 through 83.999. The University does not recognize the grade of A+.

A = 94-100 / A- = 90-93/ B+ = 87-89/ B = 84-86/ B- = 80-83/ C+ = 77-79/ C = 74-76/
C- = 70-73/ D+ = 67-69/ D = 64-66/ D- = 60-63/ F = 0-60

Here is a link to the University's plus/minus page, with FAQ:
www.utexas.edu/provost/planning/plus-minus/

Classroom Expectations: In addition to regular section attendance, students are expected to come prepared to actively participate. We will observe civil classroom behavior at all times. Silence mobile phones during class time and refrain from other activities that might detract from the learning environment, including surfing the Internet. Students are expected to bring their texts and note-taking materials to every lecture and section.

Attendance Policy: Punctual attendance in lecture and section is mandatory. More than one (1) absence from section will result in a reduction of a full letter grade in the final course grade (e.g., B to C). More than three (3) absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Examination Policy: Students must bring their own pens and blue books to all exams. Neither will be provided by the professor or section instructors, and examinations on other paper will not be accepted. Except in the case of true emergencies or University cancellation of classes, no early or make-up exams will be allowed.

Grade Review Policy: Regrading of exams will be considered only via written petition submitted to your section instructor no earlier than one week after an exam's return and no more than two weeks afterwards. Accurate and consistent grading is very important for proper student evaluation and fair conduct of the course; regrades will always be considered carefully. For these reasons *no regrades will be accepted without a written description* of the grading error, and regrades will be handled by the section instructor. While the lead professor will closely supervise the overall grading process, DO NOT turn to the lead professor, as section instructors have final authority in grade matters.

Academic Honesty Statement: Academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policy, including assessment of the stiffest penalty permitted to the instructor (e.g., a failing grade in the course). Additional sanctions may be imposed by the University. Cheating in any form, including plagiarism and self-plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, ask the instructor.

University Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 or 471-4641 (TTY) for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five (5) business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. See the following website for more information:
<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

Blackboard: This course uses Blackboard, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. Blackboard can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Blackboard course site regularly for class work and announcements; email may also be used for announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on Blackboard. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Blackboard is available at <http://courses.utexas.edu>. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm, so plan accordingly.

Recommendations Policy: I will not be writing any recommendations for students in this course since I will not have seen your performance in section on a weekly basis. Please consult your section instructor for his or her policy about recommendations.

Taping and Duplication Policy: The syllabus and lectures of this course are protected by state law and federal copyright law. Students in the course are permitted to take one and only one set of class notes as an authorized derivative work. No one, whether enrolled in the course or not, is authorized to record course lectures in any form, to provide notes for anyone else, or to make any commercial use of them without prior written permission from the professor.

Sections Instructor Information:

Instructor: Kimberly Garza
Office Hours: M 10-11:30 & W 12-1:30
34335 W 2-3 SZB 278

kgarza@gmail.com
FAC 16
34320 Th 8:30-9:30 PAR 310

Instructor: Dusty Hixenbaugh
Office Hours: W10-1
34340 W 3-4 SZB 524

dustyh@mail.utexas.edu
FAC 16
34345 Th 5-6 PAR 208

Instructor: Rachel Macaulay
Office Hours: M 10-noon & Th 9:30-10:30
34325 W 10-11 SZB 284

rachel.was.macaulay@gmail.com
FAC 16
34315 Th 8:30-9:30 PAR 302

Instructor: Andrew Uzendoski
Office Hours:
34330 W Noon-1 JES A216A

uzendoski@gmail.com
34350 Th 5-6 PAR 304

E316K Schedule (1/20/2010-subject to revision)

Week 1: Introduction

Jan. 20- Course Logistics
Jan. 22- Declaration of Independence

Week 2: American Exceptionalism

Jan 25- Crèvecoeur, Letters from an American Farmer III, IX & Franklin, "Information to Those Who Would Remove to America"
Jan. 27- Emerson, "Self-Reliance"
Jan. 29- Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"

Week 3: American Romanticism

Feb. 1- Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"
Feb. 3- Poe, "The Black Cat"
Feb. 5- Whitman, "Passage to India" & "I Hear America Singing"

Week 4: The Specter of Slavery

Feb. 8- Melville, "Benito Cereno"
Feb. 10- Melville, "Benito Cereno"
Feb. 12- Melville, "Benito Cereno"

Week 5: Anti-Slave Narratives

Feb. 15- Douglass, Narrative
Feb. 17- Douglass, Narrative
Feb. 19- Douglass, Narrative

Week 6: Domesticity & Slavery

Feb. 22- Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin
Feb. 24- Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
Feb. 26- EXAM

Week 7: Realism

March 1- James, Daisy Miller
March 3- James, Daisy Miller
March 5- James, Daisy Miller

Week 8: Naturalism

March 8- Crane, "The Open Boat"
March 10- Crane, "The Open Boat"
March 12- TBA

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Regionalism

March 22- Freeman, "A New England Nun"
March 24- Freeman, "A New England Nun"
March 26- Emily Dickinson (all poems)

Week 10: The New Woman

March 29- Chopin, The Awakening
March 31- Chopin, The Awakening

April 2- Chopin, The Awakening

Week 11: The Mad Woman

April 5- Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper"
April 7- Gilman, "Yellow Wallpaper"
April 9- EXAM

Week 12: Modernism

April 12- Fitzgerald, "Winter Dreams"
April 14- Fitzgerald, "Winter Dreams"
April 16- Modernist Poetry
(Eliot, "The Wasteland"; Pound, "In a Station of the Metro"; Stevens, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"; Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow")

Week 13: Postmodernism

April 19- Harlem Renaissance Poetry
(Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask"; Hughes, "Harlem"; Cullen, "Yet Do I Marvel"; McKay, "White Houses"; Grimke, "The Black Finger")
April 21- Pynchon, "Entropy"
April 23- Oates, "How I Contemplated"

Week 14: Native America

April 26- Alexie, "Defending Walt Whitman"
April 28- Alexie, "Class"
April 30- Anzaldúa, Borderlands/ La Frontera

Week 15: Conclusion

May 3- Cisneros, "Mericans" (handout)
May 5- Conclusion and Evaluations
May 7- EXAM