



2326 American Literature (Single Semester) – Face to Face
Course Syllabus: Spring 2025

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

(Three Credit Hours) A survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character. **Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 (Composition I)**

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Student Evaluation

Participation (Discussion and Quizzes)	20%
Assignments (In-Class, Research, Presentation)	50%
Tests (Midterm & Final)	30%

90%	A
80%	B
70%	C
60%	D
< 60%	F

Grades will be returned to the student as follows:

- Blackboard assignments within one week of the due date.
- Papers and Presentation within two weeks of the due date.
- Quizzes and Participation grades will usually be updated within 48 hours, but the final total with any extra credit and/or bonus points will be finalized by the instructor during the last week of class.

Required Textbook(s):

Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter 10th Edition, Volume 1 (ISBN: 978-0-393-88617-7)

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Self-selected text/novel for presentation & author study

Required Instructional Materials: pocket folder, three-subject spiral (can be the same one used in 1301)

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Even though we are a face-to-face class, this course requires you to access a computer that can run Blackboard, Microsoft Office, and Teams. **If conditions change during our semester, we will complete the course via Teams.**

If you have trouble accessing Blackboard and Word, there are basically three options:

- 1) If you have your own computer and solid internet access at home, please use your own equipment there.
- 2) If you have your own computer, but less than optimal internet access, bring your laptop to campus and plan to access the campus' WiFi in one of the socially distanced areas available on-campus. Weather permitting, the best option for that is to remain outside away from others. If weather conditions are less than optimal, the campus is arranging socially distanced rooms you can use. You probably want to bring earbuds/headphones for privacy.
- 3) If you do not have your own computer, all computers available in the LRC and other campus computer labs are sufficiently equipped to complete class assignments and have been arranged for socially distancing. You probably want to bring earbuds/headphones for privacy. Additionally, there are computer kiosks available in the SUB and BT from which you can check out one of a limited number of laptops for personal use.

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Basic Word Processing and Email skills

Course Structure and Overview:

This is a 16-week face-to-face British Literature survey. As the course description requires us to begin with creation myths and make our way to modern times, we will not be spending a great deal of time on any one item. Instead, we will survey a wide variety of works within each literary time period. Class meetings will be reserved for lectures, discussions, interactive sessions, and presentations. Class participation is an essential element in this course. Each student will be expected to participate in all activities which occur in class, and participation in these activities directly affects the student's grade at the end of the semester. Out of class, students are expected to complete all the readings, complete their assigned research paper and presentation, and complete all assignments by the posted due date.

Assignments:

Quizzes: I reserve the right to give a quiz over the assigned text at the beginning, middle or end of class. They will be comprised of literal questions over key details from the assigned reading for the day. All quizzes are timed, but I do allow you to access the text. You are required to finish the quizzes in the allotted amount of time.

Readings: Most readings will come directly from our textbooks, but you will be required to read additional works to complete the research requirements.

Written Assignments: Several times during the semester, you will be given short analytical assignments to do related to the assigned texts. Each assignment will have a different topic, but all should be typed and in MLA Style (i.e. one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12-point TNR font, and with appropriate documentation).

Research Presentations & Paper: As an individual, you will be responsible for researching and presenting an author and one of their significant works. You may submit an author for approval, but if your author is not approved or no submission is made, you will be assigned an author and work randomly, and you will not be able to change this selection. In general, you will be informing your classmates about an American author and their work that, in an ideal world, would be covered by the class. You will be responsible for providing a 10-minute speech & presentation slides. You will be expected to teach your lesson at the point we hit your assigned text in time. **Please note, any information provided in your class presentation may find its way onto the midterm or final.** In addition to the presentation (speech & slides), you will also be expected to read one significant and influential work by the author and complete a well-researched and analytical essay (MLA style) on the author and the significance of the work you read. The paper will be due at the end of Week 14.

Tests: The class will have two tests—a 100-point mid-term and 200 point comprehensive final. They will be a combination of multiple-choice and constructed response questions.

Institutional/Course Policies:

Communications: Please allow 24 hours for email responses during the week, 72 hours on weekends. If it is urgent, please feel free to text. I will respond to texts as quickly as I am able.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Once you complete the Syllabus Acknowledgement, you are considered in attendance, and the instructor will certify that you are part of the class. If you decide that you cannot complete the course, it is your responsibility to drop or withdraw with the registrar's office and the school counselor. Failure to do so will result in receiving a poor performance grade, usually a grade of F. Since this is a dual-credit course, withdrawing or failing the course results in not receiving your required high-school English credit.

You may **drop** the class prior to the official reporting day (12th day). In this case, the class will not appear anywhere on your college transcript. You can **withdraw** from the class after the official reporting date and before the last posted date of withdrawal, and a W will be recorded on your transcript. The instructor will not drop or withdraw you from this course, even if you are not actively participating. It is your responsibility to drop a course or withdraw from the college.

Remember, the course is heavily based on participation. It is very easy to fall behind if you miss. If you do need to miss, please remember to ask classmates for notes so you can catch up. I also make it a point to place any handouts you've missed in the Absent bin.

Participation: This course is primarily done through discussion and interaction. If you have done the reading, prepared assignments on time, and tried to be involved in class activities, this should not be a problem. **But you will have to keep up with the readings.**

Late Work, Make Up Work, & Corrections: I do not allow corrections and I do not accept late assignments. Important due dates are announced clearly on the assignment calendar and all due dates are stated in class regularly. If you are approaching a deadline and need an extension, you may submit a request via email at least 12 hours in advance of the deadline.

If you miss a quiz or test, you are required to schedule a time to make up the work the first day you return to class. Please be aware, this work is expected to be made up outside of the normal class schedule.

Electronic Devices: Per campus policy, the use of cell phones, smart watches, and bluetooth headphones is prohibited in class. Any device seen or heard will be picked up and turned into the high school office. Keep them off and out of sight.

NTCC Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, & AI-Generated Content: NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits honestly, beyond reproach, using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor.

Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action. The expectation for this course is that your similarity rate on Turn It In (BlackBoard) is lower than 15%. For every point above 15, I will begin deducting five points from your grade for the paper. In other words, if your similarity rate comes back at 17%, the highest you will be able to make on the paper is a 90. If you turn in a paper with a 20% similarity, the highest score you could make would be a 75. You will not be given a chance to resubmit. If you are correctly citing your information and providing a works cited page, this should not be a problem. If you would like me to help you with this, please make an appointment to come work with me on this skill. If you are caught plagiarizing another student, you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment with no option to correct or redo.

I consider submitting AI-generated text as original work to be academically dishonest and unethical. However, as a teacher I have seen how AI has benefited struggling writers in learning to organize their thoughts and strengthen their arguments. If your paper is flagged to include any amount of AI-generated content, it will result in a grade penalty. For each percentage point flagged, I will deduct one point from your grade. For example, if your rubric score was a 96 but your paper included 18% AI-generated text, your final grade would be a 78.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation). Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt. Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards-- accessed August 31, 2023)**

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely,

Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Video Recording of Course Activities

Certain portions of this course may be recorded via video conferencing software to assist students in course material review or later viewing by a student who was not able to attend the live session. The recordings will be made available only to students within the course and will cease to be available upon completion of the course. Students may not retain, reproduce, or share recordings.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Timeline (*note* instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term): You should have read everything scheduled **before** you get to class. When an assignment calls for "selections from," we MIGHT divide up the overall reading among various members of the class, so you may not be reading the same texts that your classmate is reading. You need to communicate your absence in advance in order to be assigned the correct reading.