

**English 2326: American Literature
Fall 2016 Course Syllabus
Instructor: Associate Professor Ms. Glenda Bryant**

General Information:

Office Location: My office is located in the Communications Building on the Levelland campus. My office number is 100.

Office Phone Number: 806.716.2190 (I do not have access to voice mail once I leave my office. If you need to reach me, email me in *Blackboard's Email Center*.)

Required Texts and Materials:

- Delbanco, Nicholas, and Alan Cheuse. *Literature Craft & Voice. Second Edition.* (This book is available in both the Levelland and Reese campus bookstores. The ISBN# is 978-0-07-338492-4.)

- The latest version of *Google Chrome* or *Firefox*

***Do not use any other Internet browsers to access this *Blackboard* course. And always use the latest updated versions of *Google Chrome* or *Firefox*.**

- *Microsoft Word* and *Microsoft Power Point* (You must have the appropriate computer software either to send your papers as attachments in *Blackboard* or to read the power point presentations. Note that *Microsoft Works* and *Word Perfect* are not compatible with *Blackboard*.)

- Two jump drives

- A Large Spiral Notebook: This notebook will house all of your handouts from the course.

- A reliable home computer and Internet connection

Course Objectives:

- This course aims to present some of the most celebrated American authors and their writings and help the student view some of the many facets of American society as they are portrayed in literature.

- The course will highlight some of the major forms of literature apparent in American novels, short stories, poems, and plays, which include Gothicism, realism, naturalism, and modernism. You will be studying the primary features of these forms of literature.
- You will understand the major elements of literature as these are highlighted in representative poems, short stories, and plays: theme, symbolism, structure, characterization, point of view, setting, tone, language and sound devices, and others.
- You will be applying critical thinking to the study of literature and will write two multi-paragraph essays. These papers will address varied approaches to analyzing literature: psychological criticism, historical criticism, biographical criticism, moral / thematic criticism, and structural criticism, to name a few.
- You will receive interactive instruction for preparing well-organized, developed, and grammatically correct themes in the *MLA* format.
- You will complete online tests for assigned readings.
- You will also engage in reader-response criticism as you complete study guides and write formal papers.

Blackboard Information:

- Use *Blackboard* to do the following: take online quizzes in *Assessments*, acquire power points and any additional handouts, correspond with students and the instructor about the class's assignments via *Blackboard Email*, and submit writing assignments to *Turn-It-In Assignments*.
- In the menu on the left side of the homepage, click each topic to access the following: technical support, course syllabus, special handouts, power point presentations, tests, and so forth.
- Note that to access the power point presentations, which are accessible by using the course menu, you will need this program: *Microsoft Power Point*. This program is installed on the computers in the Technology Center. You may also purchase this software at any Best Buy, Circuit City, Office Max, and so forth. You may also print these power point presentations in the library and / or the Technology Center on the Levelland campus and do so at no charge. You will need to have a SPC student ID card with you in order to use these computers.
- You will complete your study guides for the course in *Tests*, a link located in *Course Tools* menu on the left side of the home page. You will have a time limit for each

test and will not be able to change or add responses once that time limit ends. Once you have completed the test, click *Finish* before exiting the exam. You will not have access to any test until the availability for the exam ends and until I have scored every test.

- **Blackboard** technical support is available to all students enrolled in Internet-based courses. The first place to go for help is your course instructor. He or she will be able to answer any questions you have about the content of the course, assignment due dates, quiz dates, etc.; however, for technical assistance email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or call 806.894.9611 ext. 2180. In addition, support hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

When e-mailing a request for help, include your full name, course(s) enrolled in, name of instructor(s) and a phone number where you can be reached.

Grading Policies:

- **Types of Assignments:**

(1) Tests for Reading Selections

(2) Essay Writing Assignments

*All of the above assignments will have different weights, all according to the amount of material the assignments cover and the complexities in completing the work.

- **Handling of Late Work and Computer Problems**

All students must turn in every assignment or take any online test by the deadline. I do not accept any late papers or allow students to take tests that they miss unless a dire circumstance arises. Students must contact me, the instructor, by phone or e-mail prior to the deadline if such emergencies do occur.

- **Methods of Evaluation**

(1) Students' work will be evaluated by means of this scoring system: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (59 and below).

(2) Students' essay assignments will be graded in *Blackboard's Assignments*.

(3) Students will be able to know current averages by referring to *My Grades* in *Blackboard*. Throughout the semester, students will be notified by email when grades have been updated.

Attendance Policy:

- Students are expected to be “in class” and complete their work by the deadlines. There are no excused absences. I do not accept late work.
- Students are expected to read assignments, take tests, and prepare essay by the assigned deadlines. There are no exceptions to this rule unless a dire circumstance arises, such as a death in the family. Students should contact me prior to or on the day of a deadline for a test, paper, and so forth if such a situation arises. Failure to contact me within this acceptable time frame will result in a 0 for that assignment.
- The instructor will drop students who miss five or more consecutive or nonconsecutive assignments. If the student acquires five or more missed assignments after the final drop date, which is November 17th, he or she will receive an F for the course. Any student who realizes that he or she needs to drop the course because of missed assignments or low scores must do so no later than November 17th. This date is the last day that I, your instructor, may drop a student from the course as well.
- All students who submit every assignment by the deadline will have 3 points added to the final average. Each of these assignments must have all questions answered (scoring at least a 60 or higher) and meet the conditions of the assignments. This policy is one I use since employers advance their employees for consistency, reliability, punctuality, and hard work. These qualities are the ones that contribute to people’s success in any tasks they do.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:

- “Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This idea applies to quizzes of whatever length as well to final examinations, to daily reports, and to term papers” (*SPC General Catalogue 23*).
- Cheating: “Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade reports, illegal entry of unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating” (*General Catalog 23*).
- Plagiarism: “Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgements, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books,

encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student [or another person], is guilty of plagiarism” (*General Catalog* 23).

- This instructor deems work as plagiarized if the students fail to write their own essays, copy responses from another student’s paper, or receive help from someone else to complete any assignment. These situations are some of the most common forms of plagiarism.
- “Except in extreme cases, disciplinary action in cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled by and at the discretion of the instructor, and, if necessary, in consultation with the departmental chairperson.” If you turn in a plagiarized paper, you will receive a *O* for that assignment.

Disability Policy:

- Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his or her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611, ext. 2529.

Discrimination Policy:

- It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations and / or resolutions of professional organizations in education and psychology, my diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences to be inconsistent with my instructional mission and educational goals.

Diversity Policy:

- “In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.”

***This instructor reserves the right to make changes in these policies.**

Fall Course Calendar for English 2326

Monday, August 29th-Wednesday, September 7th at 11:59 PM

Assignments:

1. Become familiar with the course layout in *Blackboard*.
2. Read the course syllabus, purchase textbook, and download the MLA formatting manual.
3. Begin a study of American Gothicism by studying the following:

“Overview of American Gothicism” (located in *Special Handouts in Blackboard*)

“Edgar Allan Poe” (*Literature Craft & Voice* 291)

“The Raven” (692-694)

“Analysis of ‘The Raven’” (located in *Special Handouts in Blackboard*)

“The Cask of Amontillado” and “Writing and Reading” (Study the questions.) (*Literature Craft & Voice* 291-296)

“Power Point Presentation for Edgar Allan Poe and ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’” (located in *Power Point Presentations in Blackboard*)

4. Complete in *Blackboard’s Tests* “Study Guide for Gothicism and Poe’s Readings”

Thursday, September 8th-Wednesday, September 14th at 11:59 PM

1. Complete a study of the gothic author Nathaniel Hawthorne.

“Biography of Nathaniel Hawthorne” (*Literature Craft & Voice* 448)

“Young Goodman Brown” (*Literature Craft & Voice* 449-455)

“Power Point Presentation for Hawthorne and ‘Young Goodman Brown’” (*Power Point Presentations in Blackboard*)

2. Complete a study of the gothic writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s and “The Yellow Wallpaper” (*Craft & Voice* 364-372). Study these items as well:

“Writing from Reading” (*Craft & Voice* 372)

“Power Point Presentation for ‘The Yellow Wallpaper’” (*Power Point Presentations in Blackboard*)

1. Complete a study of Joyce Carol Oates as a Gothic writer and her tale.

Read Joyce Carol Oates’ biography (204) and “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” (pp. 205-215 in the textbook)

Study “Writing from Reading,” p. 214 in the textbook.

2. Prepare “Study Guide for ‘Young Goodman Brown’ and ‘Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?’” in *Blackboard’s Tests*.

Thursday, September 15th-Wednesday, September 21st at midnight

1. Review the rules for writing a paper about literature.

“Observing the Conventions of Writing a Literary Paper”

Adding In-Text Citations

Writing Works Cited Entries

“Model Literary Paper Typed in the MLA Format”

2. Complete “Study Guide for Writing a Literary Paper and Using the MLA Format,” “Study Guide for Creating In-Text Citations,” and “Study Guide for Preparing Works Cited Entries”

Thursday, September 22nd-Tuesday, September 27th

Writing Assignment: Prepare the Gothicism paper and submit it to *TurnItIn Assignments*. (Use “Model Gothicism Paper” as a guide.)

Wednesday, September 28th -Tuesday, October 4th

Introduction to Realism and Study of Kate Chopin and “A Story of an Hour”

1. From *Power Point Presentations*, download “Power Point Presentation for Realism and ‘The Story of an Hour.’”
2. Learn the features present in a realistic work by studying the first part of the above power point presentation.

3. Read about the life of Kate Chopin, p. 149 and her tale “The Story of an Hour,” pp. 150-151 in the literature textbook.

4. Download and study “Power Point Presentation for Chopin and ‘The Story of an Hour,’” which is located in *Power Point Presentations in Blackboard*. Consider what features of realism appear in this story.

Study of William Faulkner and “Barn Burning”

1. Read and study the brief introduction for William Faulkner’s life, pp. 482-483 in the literature textbook. Then, read “Barn Burning,” pp. 483-4896.
2. Download and study “Power Point Presentation for Faulkner and “Barn Burning,” located in *Power Point Presentations in Blackboard*.

Testing Assignment:

Upon completion of studying the above material, proceed to *Tests in Blackboard* to complete “Study Guide for ‘A Story of an Hour’ and ‘Barn Burning,’” for which you will have 75 minutes to complete.

Wednesday, October 5th- Thursday, October 20th at midnight

1. Keep in mind the above features of naturalism as you read a highly acclaimed modern short story entitled “The Chrysanthemums,” pp. 471-476. Be sure to read as well the short biography of John Steinbeck’s life on p. 471 in the textbook.
2. Download and study as well “Power Point for ‘The Chrysanthemums,’” which appears in Blackboard’s *Power Point Presentations*.
3. The second tale that illustrates naturalism as well as realism is Flannery O’Connor’s “Good Country People,” pp. 352-362 in the literature textbook. After reading this story, download “Power Point Presentation for “Good Country People” from *Power Point Presentations*. Read and study this presentation closely.
4. Another classic naturalistic story is “The Jilting of Granny Weatherall,” pp. 261-266 in the textbook. In this tale, you will meet a grandmother who is facing death. As she awaits her death, she recalls the key events in her life.
5. After studying all of the above readings, which include the power point presentations, and additional readings, proceed to *Tests* to complete “Study Guide for Naturalism and Selected Stories.”

Testing Assignment: “Study Guide for Naturalism and Selected Tales” in *Blackboard*

Friday, October 21st-Tuesday, October 25th at 11:59 PM

Major Writing Assignment #2: Prepare a 600-750 word essay about the features of realism or naturalism.

Wednesday, October 26th-Tuesday, November 15th

Introduction to American Modernism

- **The Features of Modernism: “Introduction to Modernism and Existentialism” (Power Point Presentation)**
- **Reading of Modern Play: Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun***
- **Power Point Presentation for *A Raisin in the Sun***

Assessment: “Study Guide for Modernism and *A Raisin in the Sun*”

Wednesday, November 15th-Tuesday, November 22nd

- **A Study of Emily Dickinson’s Selected Poems**
- **A Study of Robert Frost’s Selected Poetry**
- **Power Point Presentations and Online Readings for the Poems**

Assessment: “Study Guide for American Modern Poetry”

Wednesday, November 23rd-Friday, November 25th: Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, November 28th-Friday, December 9th

- **A Study of American Modern Short Stories**
- Ernest Hemingway and “Hills Like White Elephants”**
- Louise Erdrich’s “The Red Convertible”**
- Tim O’Brien’s “The Things They Carried”**

- **Power Point Presentations for the Selections and Additional Articles if Needed**

Assessment: “Study Guide for Selected Modern Short Stories”