




Universidad de Costa Rica

**DEPARTAMENTO DE FILOSOFIA, ARTES Y LETRAS
SECCION LENGUAS MODERNAS**

<p>Second Semester 2006</p> <p>COURSE CONTENTS & DISTRIBUTION (Tentative)</p> 	<p>IO-5500 American (U.S.) Literature MONDAYS 1:00 P.M. - 4:50 P.M.</p> <p>Requirements: IO-5220 Oral Communication 3 Credits: 3 Hours of class time: 4</p>	<p>Instructor: <i>M.Sc. Tamatha Rabb Andrews</i></p> <p>Office Hours for Attending Students: Mondays & Fridays 10:00 - 11:50 A.M.</p> <p>Cell Phone: 836-4247 e-mail: tamcambroner@yahoo.com</p>
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents a panoramic vision of American (U.S.) Literature, beginning with traditional literature from the XVIII (18th) century and culminating to the drama of present day.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, students will be capable of:

General	Specific
1. To distinguish between the different distinctive literary genres.	<p>1.1 To apply the different genres and literary figures.</p> <p>1.2 To recognize the features of modern drama in North American literature.</p>
2. To recognize the principle figures in literature.	2.1 To know important aspects on the lives of principle authors and their most important works from each literary era.
3. To have a clear concept of the historical development of American literature.	<p>3.1 To discern the birth of literature in North America during the 'New Land' era.</p> <p>3.2 To understand the literary authors during the Classical era in North America.</p> <p>3.3 To understand the denotation of American Literature during the era of 'Literary Nationalism'.</p> <p>3.4 To distinguish the characteristics of North American literature during the period of 'Variation & Departure'.</p> <p>3.5 To recognize the traits during 'The Modern Temper' era.</p> <p>3.6 To know some important aspects of the 'New Frontiers' era.</p>

4. To critically analyze and interpret literary works written by different North American authors.

4.1 To analyze literary works of different principle authors in each era of American literature.

COURSE CONTENTS

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| 1. Concept of Literature | 6. American Classics |
| 2. Literary Genres | 7. Variations and Departure |
| 3. Literary Figures | 8. The Modern Temper |
| 4. The New Land | 9. American Theater in the Twentieth Century |
| 5. Literary Nationalism | 10. New Frontiers |

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The instructor will present introductory material and will guide the students in commentaries, discussions, and analysis of the assigned readings. Student preparation for and participation in class is vital. Students will express their ideas and opinions individually and in groups both orally and in written formats on different literary works and on the North American authors who wrote them.

COURSE CONTENTS AND DISTRIBUTION

Session	Date	Content	Student Presentations/ Due Dates	Assignments
1	8/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice Breaker. Introduction to course: discussion of syllabus 		
2	8/21	Mother's Day Observed (no classes)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Anthology Pp. 1 - 20
3	8/28	Lecture on the Earliest Days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read My Antonia Pp. 1 - 29 Read Anthology Pp. 22 - 30; Pp. 59 - 64
4	9/4	Quiz #1 Lecture on the Earliest Days (cont.)	Author Presentations: William Bradford– Mary Rowlandson –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read My Antonia Pp. 30 - 58 Read Anthology Pp. 66 - 80; Pp. 87 - 92

5	9/11	Lecture on A New Nation	Author Presentations: Benjamin Franklin– Patrick Henry–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read My Antonia Pp. 59 - 90 • Read Anthology Pp. 93 - 99; Pp. 116 - 124
6	9/18	Quiz #2 Lecture on The Civil War & Its Aftermath	Author Presentations: Thomas Paine– Washington Irving–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read My Antonia Pp. 93 - 123 • Read Anthology Pp. 125 - 137
7	9/25	Movie: My Antonia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read My Antonia Pp. 124 - 156 • Read Anthology Pp. 180 - 186; Pp. 226 -227; Pp. 234 - 247
8	10/2	Quiz #3	Author Presentation: Edgar Allan Poe–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read My Antonia Pp. 157 - 188 • Read Anthology Pp. 248- 262 • Study for the midterm exam.
9	10/9	• Midterm #1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read My Antonia Pp. 189 - 207 • Read Anthology Pp. 376 - 390; Pp. 402 - 403
10	10/16	* Culture Day (Colombus Day Observed) No Classes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read My Antonia Pp. 211 to the end of the book. • Read Anthology Pp. 414 - 429
11	10/23	Movie: Finish My Antonia Lecture on the Regionalism & Realism	Turn in book analysis paper on My Antonia Oral book Presentations on My Antonia (10min. per group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Our Town Pp. 1 - 28 • Read Anthology Pp. 494 - 500; Pp. 517 - 518; Pp. 525 - 532
12	10/30	Quiz #4 Lecture on the Beginnings of the Modern Age	Author Presentations: Frederick Douglass– Mark Twain– Willa Cather–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Our Town Pp. 29 - 57 • Read Anthology Pp. 533 - 551

13	11/6	DVD: Our Town Lecture on the Midcentury Voices	Author Presentation: Thomas Wolfe- F. Scott Fitzgerald–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Our Town Pp. 58 - 83 • Read Anthology Pp. 870 - 875; Pp. 885 - 896
14	11/13	Quiz #5 Lecture on Towards the 21 st century	Author Presentation: Bernard Malamud–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Our Town Pp. 85- 112 (The end of the play) • Read Anthology Pp. 902 - 910
15	11/20	DVD: Our Town	Author Presentation: Julia Alvarez–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for the midterm exam.
16	11/27	• Midterm #2		
17	12/4	Grades will be given on Monday, December 4th from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M.		Have a great holiday to each and everyone of you!

NOTE: Slight changes may occur in the **COURSE CONTENTS AND DISTRIBUTION**. You are responsible to take note(s) of these changes as they occur.

EVALUATION

COMPONENTS	PERCENTAGES
Reading Journal (individual) (Complete one journal entry for each of the literary works read in this course.)	20%
Written Book Analysis Paper on <i>My Antonia</i> (Groups of two to three Ss.)	10%

Oral Book Presentation on <i>My Antonia</i> (Groups of two to three Ss.)	5%
Presentation on One American Author (pairs) (First come...first serve on your choice of writer OR it will be assigned for you)	10%
5 Quizzes (3% each)	20%
Midterm #1	15%
Midterm #2	20%

Description of the course assignments:

- **Presentation on one American Author:** Ss. will present one American author in groups of two . (First come...first serve on your choice of North American authors). Students should take into account the history read when presenting and create a problem solving activity to check the groups understanding of the material as well as create a summary of the material for each student. *Be creative*, and use technology wherever possible. You have approximately 15 min. of class time for this presentation.
- **Book Presentation:** Ss. are to read one novel, *My Antonia*. Ss are to research the reading (author, era, etc.) on the web and other sources and compare the book to the movie. Students will present their findings to the class and turn in a written book report. *Be creative in your use of materials*, and use technology wherever possible. You have approximately 10 min. of class time for this presentation. This presentation and the written book report consists of 2 to 3 students in each group. Any **suspected plagiarism** will result in the **lose of the 10%** report grade.
- **Journal:** The purpose of the journal is to record ones reactions, feelings, ideas, observations, and questions that come up as you read the literary works. You may wish to copy a favorite sentence or key passage. You may wish to respond by drawing a picture occasionally instead of writing. Just remember that the journal is for you to relate the readings to your own life experiences. *Journals will not be graded on grammar, punctuation, or spelling, but on effort and content*. Ss. complete one journal entry for each literary selection In the heading of each entry include the following items: Title of Literary Work, Date read, and Level of Difficulty of Selection in your opinion (easy, not too easy but not too hard, hard, impossible for me to understand). Journals are to be typed and turned in at the beginning of each class period. Journals are individual homework assignments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Hinkel, E. (2000). **Culture in Second Language Teaching and Learning**. USA: Cambridge University Press.
- Lazar, G. (1993). **Literature and Language Teaching**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Miller, J. E. (1991). **The United States in Literature (Classic Edition)**. Glenview, IL: Scott Foresman & Co.
- Materials compiled by the professor.

REQUIRED ITEMS

Materials compiled by the professor.

COURSE POLICIES

Reading assignments must be completed before the class under which they are indicated in the course contents and distribution section of this syllabus.

Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced in no larger than 12 pitch, following APA style. Students should print out the *APA Research Style Crib Sheet* from <http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html>. Information may also be gained from www.apa.org.

Unquestionable integrity of scholarship is expected of every student. Please consult the APA for information on plagiarism. Special attention should be given to full and careful citation of any material downloaded from the internet.

As always, pay careful attention to any changes in the syllabus we might agree upon.

Late work will not be accepted or the use of cell phones in class. Cell phones should be turned off from start to finish of the class period.

The passing grade is 7.0, and students whose final grades are from 6.0 to 6.9 have the right to take the “extraordinario” exam.

