

Spring 1-15-2012

## ENG 3703-001: American Literature, 1900-1950

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**ENGLISH 3703.001 – AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1900-1950**

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington  
 Office: Coleman Hall 3321  
 Phone: 581-5214  
 Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu  
 Class: Coleman Hall 3160, TR, 8:00-9:15am  
 Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00am and 12:30-2:00pm, or by appt.

Texts: Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* 1898  
 Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* 1901  
 Edith Wharton, *The Children* 1928  
 William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* 1929  
 William Maxwell, *They Came Like Swallows* 1937  
 Willa Cather, *My Antonia* 1918  
 The Garden of Eden 1946/1986  
 Various materials provide via ERES or Email.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To read, discuss and analyze representative texts of the early twentieth century.
- To familiarize ourselves with differing critical stances on some of these works.
- To learn about and engage in literary research.
- To hone skills related to writing literary analyses.
- To explore relevance of this literature to other texts, arts, disciplines and world issues.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Short Essays:** Over the course of the semester, you will write five one-page *single-spaced* essays. They should cover the reading assigned for the particular day on which they are due. Although short, these essays should be focused and **thesis-driven**. It is my hope that these papers will: 1) help you keep up with the reading; and 2) generate interesting ideas for discussion. For that reason, you **must be in class** and **must contribute to class discussion that day** (in other words, speak up) in order to get credit for the response. **YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

**Annotated Bibliography:** Critical articles about the texts we are reading can provide new and different insights into the works. Consult the appropriate databases and find six articles about one of the novel-length texts on the syllabus. For each article, provide the bibliographic information in proper MLA format. This information should then be followed by a three-paragraph summary and analysis of each article. Each article should have its own page on which you provide the bibliographical information and the analysis. For the analysis, address the following questions: What is each article's main argument concerning the novel? Is that argument valid? What salient points do these novels fail to address? Which article makes the strongest point? **NOTE:** By "critical articles" I mean articles found in academic journals or books, NOT encyclopedias, Cliffs or Sparks notes, or web sources like Wikipedia. Please do not hesitate to see me if you are having trouble finding articles; we can work with the databases together.

**Analytical Essay:** For this assignment, write a thesis-driven essay about the text you addressed in your Annotated Bibliography. In this essay, you should cite at least three of the articles from your bibliography in support of that thesis. The most difficult part of this assignment will be determining a suitable topic and thesis for this essay. I am purposely not providing topic ideas: you will explore possible ideas yourself, choose one and flesh it out in an essay. Your paper should have a clear and

focused thesis statement and should make some kind of compelling **argument**. You will be graded on the quality of this argument and the extent to which you support this argument with evidence from the text. Incorporating outside sources presents another challenge: using the articles to support your argument without simply repeating those of the articles.

**Final Exam:** The exam will test both basic knowledge of the texts and class discussion, and your ability to understand and analyze what you have read. It will include essays, some short answer and possibly, a take-home aspect.

**POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your **final** grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Conferences:** The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability, let me know what accommodations you require.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Short Essays	50%
Critical Essay	25%
Final Exam	25%

**ENG 3703 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Jan.	10 T	Introduction	
	12 Th	Modernism Lecture – be prepared to take GOOD and COPIOUS NOTES.	
	17 T	James, <i>Turn of the Screw</i> , from beg. through Chap. XVII	
	19 Th	James, <i>Turn of the Screw</i> , Chap. XVIII-end	
	24 T	James, <i>Turn of the Screw</i> , pp. 189-214	
	26 Th	Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen	<b>Short Essay #1 due</b>
	31 T	Chesnutt, <i>The Marrow of Tradition</i> , pp. 44-147	
Feb.	2 Th	Chesnutt, <i>The Marrow of Tradition</i> , pp. 147-209	

7 T Chesnut, pp. 209-246, 377-383, 398-408, 422-431  
9 Th T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

14 T Wharton, *The Children*, Chaps I-XVI **Short Essay #2 due**  
16 Th Wharton, *The Children*, Chaps XVII-XXIV

21 T Wharton, *The Children*, Chaps XV-end  
23 Th E.E. Cummings Edna St. Vincent Millay

28 T *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 1-5 **Short Essay #3 due**  
Mar. 1 Th *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 6-12

6 T *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 13-19  
8 Th *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 20-end

### **SPRING BREAK**

20 T Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, April Seventh, 1928  
22 Th Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, June Second, 1910

27 T Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, April Sixth, 1928  
29 Th Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, April Eighth, 1928

April 3 T Maxwell, *They Came Like Swallows*, pp. 3-100 **Short Essay #4 due**  
5 Th Maxwell, *They Came Like Swallows*, 101-145

10 T Maxwell, *They Came Like Swallows*, pp. 145-end  
12 Th F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited" **Short Essay #5 due**

17 T Robert Frost  
19 Th Cather, *My Antonia*, Intro and Book I

24 T Cather, *My Antonia*, Books II & III  
26 Th Cather, *My Antonia*, Book IV **Analytical Essay due**

**Mon., April 30 8:00-10:00a.m FINAL EXAM**