

AL 312

Survey of American Literature II

Spring 2024, Cihan Yurdaün, cihan.yurdaun@boun.edu.tr
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Class Hours: (MMW 568) Monday 13:00-15:00, Wednesday 16:00-17:00

Office Hours: Monday 15:00-16:00, Wednesday 14:00-16:00

Course Description

This is the second leg of a survey course and covers North American literature written in the late 19th century up to the second half of the 20th century. In this course, we will mainly read selections from canonical figures of American Literature and study important topics and themes underlined by those authors in their historical context. Our primary aim is to trace the concept of the “American” as it develops in time. We’ll also explore some of the central questions raised by what can be called American identity in literature.

Class Structure & Requirements

- Although there will be occasional lectures, the class will be based on our discussions of texts, which will require your participation. So, please read the **assigned material for each week**, including the documents uploaded to **Moodle**, and come to class prepared. You can find all **the primary texts** in your course packet.
- **Attendance** is required, and you have to attend **%80** of the classes in order to be able to take the final exam and pass the class regardless of your grades in assignments and quizzes.
- There are going to be **five quizzes** assigned on the **five prose works** in your syllabus. The quizzes will be **based on the discussion questions** I will provide for each prose work. So, before you come to class, you’ll have the chance to **read the assigned texts with the discussion questions**.
- You’ll have **an option** in the quizzes. I’ll give you **two discussion questions, and you’ll choose the one** that you would like to answer. While answering the quiz question, please make sure that you write in a way to **show me that you have read the work**.
- I will count **the highest four of your five quizzes** as part of your final grade. It basically means that you can skip or miss one quiz. **Each quiz will be worth %7.5 and, in total, will constitute %30** of your final grade.
- There will be a **Midterm** of %30 and a **Final** worth %40.
- **Participation in class discussions** is a significant part of this course and might **boost your final grade up to %3**.

- **Letter Grade Layout:** **AA** (100-90), **BA** (89-85), **BB** (84-80), **CB** (79-75), **CC** (74-70), **DC** (69-65), **DD** (64-60), (fail) **F** (59-0)

Out-of-Class Communication Policy:

- If you have questions about any aspect of class, you can always email me; please do not hesitate. You can also visit me during my office hours.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 - February 12, 14

Introduction, E.A. Robinson: "Richard Cory," "The Mill," "The House on the Hill"

Week 2 - February 19, 21

Edith Wharton: "The Muse's Tragedy" (**Quiz 1**)

Week 3 - February 26, 28

Robert Frost: "Mending Wall," Marianne Moore: "The Steeple-Jack"

Week 4 - March 4, 6

F. Scott Fitzgerald: "Winter Dreams" (**Quiz 2**), T.S. Eliot: "The Preludes"

Week 5 - March 11, 13

Ezra Pound parts 1-3 from "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley," W. Carlos Williams: "This is Just to Say," "Proletarian Portrait," "The Term"

Week 6 - March 18, 20

William Faulkner: "Dry September" (**Quiz 3**)

Week 7 - March 25, 27

Langston Hughes: "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain," "I, too, Sing America," "Let America be America Again," Jean Toomer: "People," "Her Lips are Copper Wires"

Midterm Week (March 25-29)

Week 8 - April 1, 3

Wallace Stevens: "Anecdote of the Jar," "The Emperor of Ice-Cream," "Not Ideas about the Thing but the Thing itself," E.E. Cummings: "Buffalo Bill's," "Next to of Course God America I," "anyone lived in a pretty how town"

Week 9- Spring Break (April 8-14)

Week 10 – April 15, 17

Ernest Hemingway: *The Old Man and the Sea* (Quiz 4)

Week 11 – April 22, 24

Allen Ginsberg: "Howl," "America"

Week 12 – April 29, May 1st (Holiday)

Ginsberg cont., Adrienne Rich: "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law,"
Sylvia Plath: "Waking in Winter," "Ariel,"

Week 13 – May 6, 8

Toni Morrison: excerpt from *The Bluest Eye*,
Flannery O'Connor: "Good Country People," (Quiz 5)

Week 14 – May 13, 15

Flannery O'Connor: "Good Country People," Louise Glück, "Witchgrass"