

ENGLISH 2328 SYLLABUS
American Literature
Eastfield College
Dallas County Community College District
Arts, Language and Literature Division

Semester: Fall 2008
Professor: Professor R. W. Cooper
Division Phone: 972-860-7124
E-mail: RobertCooper@dcccd.edu
Office: Adjunct professors do not have offices
Location & time: Thursday 7:05 pm – 9:55 pm Room L305

Course Description and Objectives

English 2328 American Literature since 1865 is a survey course to acquaint students with major American writers. In order to expose students to as many writers and as many works as possible, the class will study some selections as a group and each student will read and research one work of prose and several poems and share your findings through oral presentations i.e. each student will teach the class on the works he or she researches.

Through reading, research, discussions, questioning, and writing, students will leave this class with a “shaking hands” knowledge of many of the major writers of American Literature and an in-depth understanding of two or more of your favorites.

Prerequisite: English 1301 and 1302 and have met Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standards in Reading and Writing. This course includes significant works of American writers from the 19th century to the present. For repeatability purposes, students who take English 2326 should not also take English 2327 or 2328

Credit Hours: 3

Conferences: By appointment and prior to class.

“W” Date: The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of “W is **November 13, 2008.**

See statement about new drop policy under DROPS.

Required Materials

Norton Anthology of American Literature Seventh Edition, ISBN ISBN-10: 0-393-93055-6 • ISBN-13: 978-0-393-93055-9

A good dictionary/thesaurus, a three ring binder with at least 5 or more tabs labeled: **Syllabus, Class Notes, Novel, Handouts**; and a floppy disk or thumb drive are suggested. **Each student must open a student e-mail account to get information about your grades and to get feedback on your papers. Because of legal issues, this cannot be done on commercial e-mail accounts. Get the student e-mail account by going to www.dcccd.edu and searching for “netmail” accounts. NO EXCEPTIONS**

Core Exemplary Educational Objectives for Composition:

1. **To understand** and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.

2. **To understand** the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. **To understand** and appropriately apply modes of expression, such as descriptive, expository, scientific and self-expressive, in written, visual and oral communication.
4. **To participate** effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
5. **To understand** and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. **To develop** the ability to research and write a document paper and/or to give an oral presentation.

Core Intellectual Competencies

- 1—**Reading**—ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials—books, documents, articles—above 12th grade
- 2—**Writing**—ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience- above 12th grade
- 5— **Critical Thinking** -- Think and analyze at a critical level.
- 6—**Computer Literacy**—Understand our technological society, use computer-based technology in communication, solving problems, acquiring information

Required Assignments and Evaluation Methods:

Two major papers	
one on a novel	15 per cent
one on a film	15 per cent
Mid-term test	15 per cent
Oral presentation your novel or play	15 per cent
Quizzes and responses to readings	15 per cent
Final exam	15 per cent
Participation and discussion threads	10 per cent

All papers and tests will be evaluated on the basis of content, logic, and grammar. A correction guide with point values for various errors is included elsewhere in this syllabus.

I give number grades based on the following scale: 100-90 = A
80-89= B
70-79= C
60-69= D
Below 60=F
Incomplete work or not papers turned in = 0

Students with more than TWO unexcused absences will have the final grade lowered one letter.

Grade reports will no longer be mailed. You may obtain your grades online at <http://econnect.dcccd.edu/> or by phone at 972-613-1818. You will need your College ID# to access your grade information.

Attendance Policy and Classroom Decorum

Attending class is the student's responsibility and will be in accordance with college requirements. Students absent more than three times will result in the loss of one letter on the final course grade. Three tardies or early departures will be treated as one absence. If you are more than ten minutes late to class, do not come. The other students have paid for the course and are thus entitled to instruction that is free from the interruption of someone's arriving late. If you come to class but do not remain for at least 85% of the class time, you will be counted absent. Emergencies and extenuating circumstances do happen from time to time. If you know in advance that you can't be in class on time, contact me first, and if your reason is valid, I will excuse the tardiness. **The class will observe the National and Christian holidays.** Members of a religion that celebrate holidays other than the ones listed in the Eastfield Catalog, must notify the instructor in writing within two weeks of the beginning of the semester. Allowances will be made to make up work missed during those holidays.

It is every student's responsibility to find out what you missed during an absence. Take the name phone number and email address of at least two of your classmates so that you can call or write if necessary to learn what you missed if you are absent. You are expected to be prepared for any class.

Turn off all cell phones and pagers before class begins and **put them out of sight**. The only stupid question is the one you DON'T ask. Feel free to ask questions and to discuss freely. However, smart mouths and wisecracks will not be tolerated. Such behavior may result in the student's removal from class by the campus police. (See student Code of Conduct on page 228-236 in the EFC 2004-2006 catalog.

Drops

All drops must be initiated by the student and must follow administrative and bureaucratic procedures. **NEITHER THE INSTRUCTOR NOR THE COLLEGE CAN OR WILL ACCEPT RESPONSIBILIOLITY FOR STUDENT FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURE IN DROPPING A COURSE OR COURSES. November 13 is the last day to drop with a "W".** Failure to follow procedure will result in student failure in the course without recourse.

Important information you need to know about dropping courses. Under section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, "an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education." This statute was enacted by the State of Texas in spring 2007 and applies to students who enroll in a public institution of higher education as first-time freshmen in fall 2007 or later. Any course that a student drops is counted toward the six-course limit if "(1) the student was able to drop the course without receiving a grade or incurring an academic penalty; (2) the student's transcript indicates or will indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and (3) the student is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from the institution."

Grade of N = given to students who do not attend class regularly after the official drop date yet remain registered in the course. The "N" will affect the student's ability to receive financial aid, and the student may be asked to return funds received for the course not being attended.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and /or any sort of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade in the course. The LAC does provide assistance that does not violate the rules of academic dishonesty and /or plagiarism; however, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, do not go to anyone for help without discussing the matter with me first. (For further discussion of academic dishonesty, see pages 228-229 in the 2004-2006 Eastfield College catalog.)

Please be advised that academic dishonesty and plagiarism are serious issues that may result in serious consequences. Students should be aware that they are responsible for their behavior concerning these issues. This class will adhere to the student's "Responsibility" as detailed in the DCCCD district-wide statement and the Eastfield College Student Code of Conduct explained in the Eastfield College and district catalogs or on-line at the district website (<https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0608/ss/code.cfm>).

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism: Any student in this English 1302 class found guilty of cheating on an examination or of plagiarism (using the definitions given for both terms in the attached document, student "Responsibility") will receive **one** or more of the following penalties:

- Ø the grade of **zero (0)** on that particular assignment.
- Ø a course grade of **F** (depending on the severity of the student's dishonesty or plagiarism).
- Ø the professor may request that the student drop the class.

All papers must be submitted to **SafeAssign**. It is a part of eCampus (Blackboard) and can be accessed from the eCampus menu.

Emergency and inclement weather procedures:

In case of emergency* or inclement weather conditions, Eastfield staff and students should listen to KEOM-FM Radio Station (88.5) as the primary media source. In partnership with the Mesquite Independent School District, Eastfield College Administration will notify KEOM immediately after a decision is made to cancel classes on any given day of inclement weather or for emergency purposes. Students may also monitor other local radio and television stations. The earliest an announcement may be broadcast on KEOM Radio is 6:00 a.m.

*Emergencies may include power or air conditioning outages, fires, etc.

Students with learning, mental or physical disabilities:

Students requesting accommodations due to the presence of a disability must identify themselves in a timely fashion and demonstrate/document the need for accommodation through the Disability services Office (DSO). For information regarding the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities, contact DSO at (972) 860-8348 voice/TDD.

Financial Aid Statement:

If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

Instructor Credentials:

Robert W. Cooper, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Liberal Arts – Southern Methodist University. Honorary Doctor of Human Letters. I have been teaching at Eastfield College since 1990. I had 13 years experience teaching at W. H. Gaston in Dallas and 8 at W. H. Ford High School in Quinlan; selected Teacher of The Year for the Quinlan Independent School District in 1999. My teaching experience at Eastfield has included English 1301 and 1302 and English 2328 American Literature. I had eight years experience teaching 1301 and 1302 courses through Paris Junior College while at Ford High School. I am Past President of the Dallas Council of Teachers of English. I served on the team which developed the hybrid English 1302 course through the LeCroy Center for distance learning.

Paper Preparation

All papers must be computer generated. Use 8 1/2 X 11 white paper, one side only, double-spaced, using a 12-point type face preferably Times New Roman with justified right margin... Do not use fancy, hard-to-read typefaces. **DO NOT** place your essay in a folder. Instead prepare a cover sheet with the following information according to MLA format:

- A. Title of your paper centered in the middle of the page.
- B. Centered beneath your title, place this information:

Name
English (Course and Section Number)
TITLE OF THE PAPER
Instructor: Professor R. W. Cooper
Date:

Place the cover sheet over your essay and staple in the upper left corner.

On page 2 and following, use the MLA format with your last name and the page number against the right margin.

Operations Policy:

I reserve the right to make any changes I deem necessary in the content and conduct of the course.

Marks Used in Grading Papers

- IR = Indefinite Pronoun Reference
- Sp = Spelling Error
- Pr = Pronoun reference problem

ROS	=	Run-on Sentence - <u>automatic 5 point penalty</u>
SVA	=	Subject - Verb Agreement error - <u>automatic 5 point penalty</u>
Frag	=	Sentence fragment. Not a complete sentence - <u>automatic 5-point penalty.</u>
Proof	=	Proofreading error
//	=	Parallel structure error
Awk	=	Awkward Construction
Trans	=	Transition needed
Cap	=	Capitalization
	=	Remove something
	=	insert something
	=	draw together elements marked (how ever)
	=	paragraph break
	=	reverse order of information marked
&	=	do not use!

How to Set Up a Page with the Proper Defaults

1. Go to the Page Set-up Menu
2. Set all the margins at 1 inch
3. Go the Paper tab and set it at 8 ½ X 11
4. Go to the Format Menu
5. Select Paragraph
6. Under General, select Alignment, then select Justified (my rule is different from MLA format)
7. Under Spacing, select Double
8. Under Line and Page Breaks, check Widow-Orphan Control
9. Go to Tools, select Word Count and check Show Tool Bar

Checklist for Editing Papers for English 2328

Before you turn in your final copy of any paper, be sure that you have checked the following:

- ✓ No comma between author's name and page number in parenthetical citations within the text; no "page" or "pg" in the citation.
- ✓ Lead-in phrase to ALL summaries and paraphrases. Lead-in phrase NOT to include the following: says, states, quotes (unless used appropriately). Find a stronger verb.
- ✓ Quotations of more than three lines indented, but with NO quotation marks around them.
- ✓ Format for heading and page numbers in MLA style as shown in handbook.
- ✓ No slang or informal language (such as "okay," "kids," "awesome")
- ✓ No "you" or "your"
- ✓ "Its" and "It's" used correctly
- ✓ Apostrophe used to show possessive (John's book) but not plural (John's books not John's book's).
- ✓ All works cited in the text listed in the Works Cited. No works listed in the Works Cited that are not cited in the text.
- ✓ Comma and period inside quotation marks (," and."). Semi-colon and colon outside quotation marks ("; and :").
- ✓ No "you." Rephrase the sentence. Do not simply substitute "one" or "person" for "you."
- ✓ Avoid "a lot" or "a lot."
- ✓ Avoid the following overused or vague expressions and words: throughout history, since time began, through the centuries, today's society, today's world, in the world today.
- ✓ Avoid an introductory paragraph that begins with a large generalization, continues to a smaller one, then ends in the thesis statement. This is the five-paragraph theme introduction used in high school It is not appropriate for college papers. Get to your topic.
- ✓ Avoid sentences that leave the reader saying "NO KIDDING!" There is no need to announce that

your topic is controversial or that it is not new.

- ✓ Avoid quotations from a dictionary. If the word is not to be used in a special sense, there is no need to define it for the reader. Readers unfamiliar with the word should look it up in a dictionary for themselves.
- ✓ Include the word endings for plural nouns and past tense verbs: scientist (one person)/scientists (more than one); suppose/supposed; use/used; prejudice/prejudiced.