

**English 2328: American Literature Since the Civil War—Fall 2014**

**3 Credit Hours / 48 hours per semester**

**12 Weeks: 9/21/2014 –12/14/2013**

**Lecture / Core Curriculum**

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CRN# 29247

Office: AD8, Spring Branch Campus

Office Phone Number: 713-718-5524

Office Hours: Mondays, 10-11am and 2-3pm

Tues/Thurs, 11:30am-12:30pm and 2-2:30pm

Come find me in the Atrium, the Writing Center, or the Adjunct Workroom

**Contacting me:** Feel free to contact me about anything at all. Communication is vital, to success in and out of this class, so bring any concerns, questions, suggestions, or comments to me as soon as they arise—regardless of how small you might *think* they are. There are no “dumb” questions—ask away. The best time to raise your question is during class-time (often, your classmates are wondering the same thing). Otherwise . . . .

**Email:** Email is the best way to contact me ([m.millerwaters@hccs.edu](mailto:m.millerwaters@hccs.edu) works, too). I will check it frequently and respond as soon as I am able. **Phone:** If you need to speak with me via phone, please email me a phone number or leave me a message at 713-718-5524. Be sure to leave your name, your phone number, and the CRN of the course that you are taking.

**Course Description:**

The HCC Course Catalogue describes English 2328, a Core Curriculum Course, as “A critical study of major American writers from 1865 to the present.” Since English 2328 is part of the Core Curriculum, this course emphasizes all of the old Core Competencies: reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy. (See the HCC Student Handbook for a complete explanation of the Basic Intellectual Core Curriculum Competencies). Our state legislature crafted a new core that went into effect this spring, so we will also emphasize the new core objectives (see below).

French philosopher Roland Barthes notes that when an author chooses a narrative form, he or she chooses a world. In this course, we will examine the various ways American writers construct their worlds, paying particular attention to issues of exclusion and inclusion. We will consider how these authors reflect, refract, and/or construct definable, knowable American experiences. We will notice that texts are products of specific discursive moments and that the construction of experience, even an American one, is an invention--just like a novel, short story, play, or poem. Critical essays on these works will help us appreciate these dynamics more clearly. English 2328 will introduce students to a large cross-section of American literature (short stories, poems, plays, novels, and essays) written after the Civil War.

Investigating texts by American writers properly demands that we do much more than read for the plot; we must pay close attention to their language (descriptions, metaphors, symbols, and so on) and the organizing structures they employ to relate events. Therefore, this

course is designed to move students into a scholarly discourse that emphasizes interpreting and reading rhetorically, engages in rigorous intellectual inquiry, and requires persuasive construction and effective presentation of written materials and oral presentations. Students will be expected to engage actively with the complex issues raised by course materials and to apply course concepts independently to new problems, contexts and texts.



**Academic Discipline/CTE Program Learning Outcomes:**

- Write in appropriate genres using varied rhetorical strategies
- Write in appropriate genres to explain and evaluate rhetorical and/or literary strategies employed in argument, persuasion, and various genres
- Analyze various genres of writing for form, method, meaning, and interpretation
- Employ research in academic writing styles and use appropriate documentation style
- Communicate ideas effectively through discussion

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

To successfully complete 2328, you will:

- Explain and illustrate stylistic characteristics of representative texts by major American writers from 1865 to the present.
- Connect representative works of these writers to human and individual values in historical and social contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of various works of major American writers from 1865 to the present.
- Analyze critical texts relating to the works of major American writers from 1865 to the present
- Critique and interpret representative literary works of major American writers from 1865 to the present

English 2328 fulfills a variety of your core curriculum components including Humanities, Cross/Multicultural Studies, and elective. Visit those sites for their Program and Student Learning Outcomes.

### **New Core Objectives**

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Students enrolled in this core curriculum course will complete a research project or case study designed to cultivate the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Social Responsibility (Lit Only)**—to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

### **Prerequisite:**

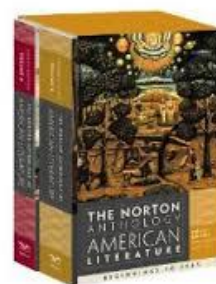
A passing grade in 1301 or its equivalent.

### **Required Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature*,  
Package 2, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (Volumes C, D, E)  
*The Sophomore Literature Study Guide*

### **Recommended Texts:**

A good, recent college dictionary  
Current MLA Guidelines or a handbook that  
contains them  
*The New McGraw-Hill Handbook* or an equivalent  
handbook



### **Academic Honesty:**

All work you submit must be your own. If you consult any sources, whether oral or written, you must clearly distinguish between your words/ideas and theirs at all times. Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat may face disciplinary action including the grade of 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or dismissal from the college (see on-line student handbook). For more on plagiarism, see "Plagiarism" in *The New McGraw-Hill Handbook*, on the HCC Library site, or in the HCC Student Handbook.



### Course Requirements:

- Reading. This is a literature course based in discussion: translation—lots and lots of reading and talking. You are expected to come to class having carefully read in an analytical manner the assigned texts (including biographical information about specific authors and the short introductions to the works). Your ability to participate thoughtfully in large and small group discussions will affect your ability to successfully complete the course. Preparedness is key to professionalism.
- Four reflective essays (500+ Words Each X 4 = 2,000 Words Total) - Students will choose four different pieces from the Norton Anthology and write a 500-word + reflective response to each of the selected compositions. These responses, while informal, should be mindful of content and reflect thoughtfulness. Students should be prepared for quizzes on the days readings are due. Quizzes will be short (10-20 minutes) and may either be short answer or brief in-class writings.
- There will be two essay exams given over the course of the semester. Neither are comprehensive. Please bring a blue book to class for these exams. The exams may not be made up unless the student provides timely, written, verifiable documentation of a grave illness or other emergency to the instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam date.
- Oral presentations. Students are required to do two oral presentations. Instructions and sign-up sheets will be handed out early in the semester.
- An annotated bibliography to support your Creative Literary Project.
- One Creative Literary Project: This out-of-class project is both creative and analytical (you will have a choice between three different types of projects). We will discuss this project at length in class. I will provide guidelines that delineate the requirements and grading criteria for the assignment. In order to be accepted, the written portion of the project must be submitted to **Turnitin.com** as well as printed out and given to me in hard copy. We will discuss the procedures for submitting papers to **Turnitin.com** before the project is due. Furthermore, some sections of your project should be formatted according to MLA manuscript guidelines. See my Learning Web page or our Eagle Online site for general guidelines.
- Attendance. Your attendance is absolutely necessary to complete the course successfully. You should make every effort to attend class; should you have a problem with attendance, please come see me during office hours. It is your responsibility to keep updated on course information if you miss class, so please make arrangements to contact other students. Search parties formed as necessary.

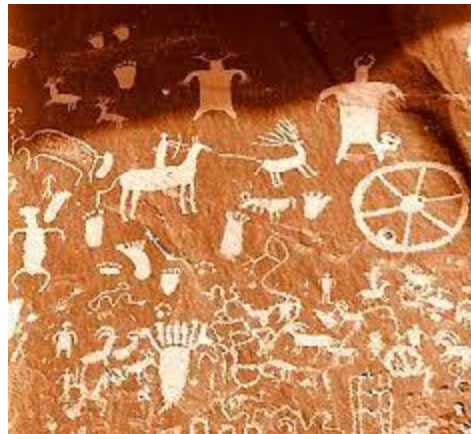
- Students are expected to do their own work. If a student represents work that is not his or her own as if it were, that constitutes plagiarism. (See above).
- All class members are expected to treat each other in a courteous and professional manner. This class will mimic, in many ways, a “real-world” working environment, and students will be expected to participate professionally—be on time, arrive prepared to discuss assigned material, meet deadlines, collaborate, and work fairly. Professionalism includes all of these as well as regular attendance and willing participation in all facets of classroom life.
- Successful sophomore literature students will complete this class by demonstrating through their work their ability to respond critically to works of literature, to identify issues and themes in literature that address what it means to be human, to assess the influence of multicultural experiences shaped by and reflected in literature, and to analyze the effects of historical, political, social, economic and cultural forces on literature in survey courses.
- Online course evaluations. Students will be expected to participate in the **EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System**.

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

### Grading:

Students will complete a variety of assignments, and each assignment will earn a letter grade. Course work will be weighted as follows:

Reflective Essays	15%
Two In-class Exams	40%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Creative Literary Project	25%
Oral Presentations	10%



All of these assignments will be discussed at length in class during the semester. Although I will provide handouts that delineate the requirements and grading criteria for these tasks, I expect students to keep up with assigned readings and to take notes while paying attention in class. Work that is off-topic or fails to follow instructions will not be accepted. *One letter grade will be deducted for each class period an out-of-class assignment is late.* Quizzes may not be made up. No extra credit, no curve. You receive the grade you earn.

A (90-100)	Exceptionally fine work, superior mechanics, style and content
B (80-89)	Above average work, achieves in areas listed above
C (70-79)	Average quality work, satisfactorily meets all requirements

D (60-69) Below average work, noticeably weak in areas listed above  
F (0-59) Failing work, clearly deficient in areas listed above



#### **Instructional Methods:**

To fulfill my personal goal of assisting you in engaging with literature more thoughtfully and effectively, you will experience a variety of instructional methods. Although you will often be involved in collaborative activities—discussion (face-to-face and online), group work, peer reviews, and projects—I will give you very specific guidance about your written work. Furthermore, you will encounter several modes as you grapple with key course information and ideas, including face to face, online, film and audio.

#### **Attendance and Withdrawal Policies:**

Students are expected to attend class. In accordance with HCC policy, students with more than 6 hours of absences (4 classes) may be dropped for excessive absence, and a daily record of attendance will be maintained throughout the semester. It is the student's responsibility to keep updated on course information if he or she misses class, so please make arrangements to contact other students should this become necessary. Refer to professionalism grade.

**NOTICE: The State of Texas has begun to impose penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you take the same course more than two times, you have to pay extra tuition.** (Students who enroll for most credit CEU classes for a third or more times will be charged an additional \$50.00 per semester credit hour and \$3.00 per contact hours.) **In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.**

Please ask your instructor or counselor about opportunities for tutoring or other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades. In consideration of the above law, I will not give "W" as a grade option unless you have submitted the withdrawal form yourself before the deadline for withdrawal. I will only give whatever grades you earn (A, B, C, D, or F). **If you stop attending the class, you need to officially withdraw yourself prior to the withdrawal deadline** (Nov 10). If you do not do so and simply disappear from class, you will receive an "FX" in the course.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course (after you have submitted a withdrawal form officially), it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

### Electronic Devices:

Official HCC policy concerning camera phones, cameras, audio/tape recorders, video recorders and any other electronic device that is capable of recording the human voice or image declares that the “[u]se of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding [such] accommodations.” As a student active in our learning community, it is your responsibility to be respectful of our learning atmosphere. To show respect to your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive explicit permission. If such a device sounds or is used during class, it will be considered a disruption of the educational process (such as other forms of inappropriate behavior) and will be treated as such. If a student expects an emergency call, he or she must speak to the instructor to receive an exception to this policy.

### Reasonable Accommodations:

Any student with a documented disability (such as physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, and so on) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office for Northwest College at the beginning of the semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Service Office. For Northwest College, the Accommodations Center is located at Town and Country in RC 12. Only those accommodations specified by the Center, in accordance with Texas law, may be provided. For questions, contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at Northwest College, Mahnaz Kolaini, at 713.718.5422. To visit the ADA Web site, log on to [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu), click Future Students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.



### Tutoring and On-line Help:

You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the free tutoring available to you in the Writing Center at Spring Branch. Tutors can help you organize and develop ideas for your writing assignments and to work on problems in grammar and sentence structure. ***Tutors do not write, rewrite, edit, or correct papers for you, but they can help you to do the tasks better yourself.*** (However, neither the tutor nor any person—your mother, your high school teacher, your friend, and so on—other than your professor is the final judge of your work.) The Spring Branch Writing Center is located in the South Hall in room 703, and its hours are Mon-Thurs 8:30am—8pm, Fri 8:30am—12:30pm, and Sat 10am—2pm. The Katy Writing Center is in room 321 across from the library, and its hours are Mon/Tues 8:30am—7pm, Wed/Thurs 8:30am—2:30pm, and Fri 8:30am—12:30pm. The Alief Writing Center is on the first floor in room B130, and its ours are Mon/Tues 8:30am—2:30pm, Wed/Thurs 8:30am—7pm, Fri 8:30am—12:30pm, and Sat 10am-2pm.

On-line tutoring is available through askonline.net and the Northwest Writing Center. These are especially useful resources for evening and weekend students. You must, however, plan in advance and submit your work well before its due date in order to receive timely advice.

**HCC Library:** See pdf in Eagle Online if you need help finding your library barcode.

**Alief:**

The HCC Libraries offer assistance in finding and documenting resources. If you would like help with research, you may contact the librarian, Jo Blair, at [jo.blair@hccs.edu](mailto:jo.blair@hccs.edu), or call the library at 713-718-5447. The library is in the ERC.



**HCC Student Services Information:**

Student Services provides master's and doctoral-level counseling for the Northwest College student body. Counselors are available at each campus to assist students in creating class schedules, evaluating college transcripts, and completing degree/certificate plans. Student Services regular business hours are the same at both campuses: M-Th 8am-7pm, F-Sat 8am-1pm. Phone numbers: Spring Branch Campus, 713-718-5669; Katy Campus, 713-718-5751.

Additional Information:

<http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/campus-services>

Early Alert: HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will "alert" you through counselors of concerns that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.