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The mission of Hannibal-LaGrange University is to provide an excellent education in both liberal arts and professional disciplines in a distinctively Christian environment that integrates Christian faith and learning in preparing graduates for personal and career effectiveness.

LIT436 – American Short Fiction

Fall 2021

Instructor Contact Information

Amanda Henry, Instructor
Office: 220-A Administration Building

Office Hours:

Monday – 9 - 10 a.m., 11-11:45 a.m., 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday – 9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Wednesday – 9 - 10 a.m.; 11-11:45 a.m.

(*Students are encouraged to schedule appointments by e-mail.)

Office Phone: 573-629-3040

Email Address: Amanda.Henry@hlg.edu

Preferred method of contact: email (see above)

Course Description: An in-depth study of the American short story as a genre, focusing on the question of American identity as portrayed within the form. Representative works of 19th and 20th century authors will be studied. Offered fall semester, odd years. Credit: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites: ENG 104, 106, and junior standing, or consent of instructor

Mode of Delivery: online

Required Text(s) and Material(s):

Oates, Joyce Carol, ed. *Oxford Book of American Short Stories*. 2nd edition. 2013. Print.

Additional Suggested Resources:

MLA style is the required citation format for this course. Students are advised to use the handbook from ENG 104 and 106 or the Purdue Owl MLA formatting and style guide which can be found online. (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)

Course Learning Objectives

For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
Proverbs 2:6

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Describe the literary elements of the American short story.
2. Analyze the use of plot, character, setting, theme, point of view, symbolism, irony, and other literary elements in the American short story.
3. Explain how selected American authors both influenced and were influenced by the cultural context of their time.
4. Analyze issues of content as well as literary technique in each novel assigned, particularly how those issues relate to sense of American identity.
5. Write clear, well-researched, and well-developed literary analysis papers.
6. Participate meaningfully in discussions of the novels within small groups and the class as a whole.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for upholding the HLGU Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism, or other violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated. Consequences for Honor Code violations are outlined in the *HLGU Student Handbook* at <http://www.hlg.edu/campuslife/downloads/student-handbook.pdf>. Students who are placed on probation or suspension or who have been dismissed may appeal by following the procedures as outlined in the *HLGU Student Handbook*.

Some assignments must be reviewed through Turnitin.com before submission. If the similarity index is 15% or higher (not including quotations that have been formatted and cited properly), please revise the paper, carefully noting paraphrasing (no more than 5 words should be in the same order as the original text) and giving appropriate credit for quoted material, and then resubmit it.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is one person's stealing the words or ideas of another and presenting them as his or her own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. A student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment involved. A second offense will result in a semester grade of F. Written assignments will be reviewed for plagiarism through the use of Turnitin.com.

Late Assignments: Assignments must be ready to turn in at the beginning of the class period for which they are due.

- Any assignment not presented on its due date will receive at least a 30% grade cut for being submitted late.
- Any assignment more than two days late will receive a 50% grade cut.
- No assignment will be accepted after the third day past the due date. No exceptions will be made.

Make-up Tests Policy:

Make-up tests may not be the same as tests taken at the regularly scheduled time.

Grading:

1. Three unit tests (100 points each – 300 total)
2. Literary terms quiz (25 points)
3. Literary elements assignment (45 points)
4. Discussion forum assignments (70 points)
5. A course paper (120 points)
6. A final project or paper (70 points)
7. Class participation (30 points)

Reporting of progress/student feedback:

Grades will be posted on Canvas. Please contact the instructor if you need additional academic support in this course.

You may access your final grade in this course after you have completed the course evaluation.

Grading Scale:

A+	99-100
A	93-98
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D+	68-69
D	63-67
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Attendance Requirements:

Students who are taking the class in-seat are expected to attend each session unless sick or excused. Students only taking the course online need to maintain communication with the professor and may be expected to watch recorded sessions of the class if they cannot attend via Zoom. Online assignments are required of all students.

Note: For college-excused absences (sports, drama, choir, etc.), please notify the instructor at least one class period before the absence will occur – an e-mail will suffice.

Technology Use: Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and stored prior to class. Earphones should not be worn in class.

Note for Students with Disabilities: If you have a special need, as addressed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. In order for reasonable accommodations to be provided, the student must provide appropriate documentation to the disability services coordinator, Academic and Career Services Office, Woodrow W. Burt Administration Building, 2nd Floor, 573-629-3016.

Course Assignment Descriptions

Note: In general, university courses require a minimum of two hours of homework for each hour of class time.

Reading Assignments: Much of the work required for this course will consist of reading. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions about the various works of literature that will be covered during the semester.

Tests: Each unit test will focus on the readings assigned in class and any lecture material given in that unit.

Literary Elements Quiz and Assignment: After these are addressed in class, students will need to demonstrate proficiency in identifying and providing examples of literary elements in short fiction.

Discussion Forum Assignment: Each student will be responsible for providing information over a particular author on a discussion forum. Students will need to respond to these on Canvas.

Short Literary Analysis Paper: More information about this paper will be given in class.

Course Paper: More information about this paper will be given in class.

Final Project: Students will have some options regarding this final assignment, which will be explained later in the course.

Class Participation: Some students will be participating in the classroom and some will be participating online. The instructor will provide opportunities for students to engage with the material for students regardless of their situation as online or in-seat.

Canvas

Students can access Canvas through their student portals. Students new to using Canvas are encouraged to watch the Canvas Overview video for students that can be accessed here: <https://community.canvaslms.com/videos/1124-canvas-overview-students>. Other more specific videos for students can be found here: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-3891#jive_content_id_Students.

Here is a link to a video about changing your notification settings as a student:
<https://community.canvaslms.com/videos/1072>

Course Outline

October 25 – Introduction to the Course

October 27 – Nathaniel Hawthorne – “The Wives of the Dead” (pages 61-66), “The Wedding Knell,” and “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment”

October 29 – James Hall – “The Indian Hater” and excerpts of “The Pioneer”; Harriet Beecher Stowe – “The Two Altars; or Two Pictures in One”

(October 29 - DEADLINE to drop a course without it appearing on the transcript.)

November 1 – Edgar Allan Poe – “The Tell-Tale Heart” (pages 68-72), “The Facts in the Case of M Valdemar,” and “The Masque of the Red Death”

November 3 – Mark Twain – “Cannibalism in Cars” (pages 108-115) and “The Invalid’s Story”

November 5 – Brett Harte – “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”; Ambrose Bierce – “One of the Missing”

November 8 – Unit I Test

November 10 – Kate Chopin – “Desiree’s Baby,” “Story of an Hour,” and “A Pair of Silk Stockings”

November 12 – Charles Chesnutt – “The Sheriff’s Children” (pages 174-190) and “The Wife of His Youth”

November 15 – Mary E. Wilkins Freeman – “Old Woman Magoun” (pages 155-172) and Charlotte Perkins Gilman – “The Yellow Wallpaper” (192-207)

November 17 – Edgar Rice Burroughs – “The God of Tarzan”; O. Henry – “The Duplicity of Hargraves”; H.P. Lovecraft – “The Rats in the Walls” (pages 298-316), “The Beast in the Cave,” and “The Alchemist”

November 19 – Jack London – “In a Far Country” (pages 268-282) and “The Shadow and the Flash”; Edith Wharton – “The Journey” (pages 209-218) and “Roman Fever”

November 22 – Unit II Test

November 24-26 – Thanksgiving Break

November 29 – James Thurber – “Macbeth Murder Mystery”; Ernest Hemingway – “Hills Like White Elephants” (pages 354-358) and “A Cat in the Rain”

December 1 – F. Scott Fitzgerald – “An Alcoholic Case” (pages 327-334) and “An Offshore Pirate”; Susan Glaspell – “A Jury of Her Peers”

December 3 – Richard Wright – “The Man Who Was Almost a Man” (pages 366-377);

Flannery O’Connor – “Everything That Rises Must Converge”

(December 3 - DEADLINE to drop the course and receive a W.)

December 6 – Ray Bradbury- “There Will Come Soft Rains” (pages 476-481) & “The Veldt”

December 8 – Tim O’Brien – “The Things They Carried” (pages 689-706) and “Where Have You Gone, Charming Billy?”

December 10 – Unit III Test

December 13 – Projects

Please note that the above schedule is subject to revision.

Due dates for quizzes and discussion forums will be posted on Canvas.