

ENGL 2160
Literature and the American
Identity
4 Semester Hours

# **Course Information**

### **Contact Information**

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# **Grading**

Quizzes: 25%

Discussion Boards: 25%

Papers: 40% Glossaries: 10%

# Required Textbook(s)

Benjamin Franklin: The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin 978-0142437605

Mark Twain: *Pudd'nhead Wilson* 978-0140430400 F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby* 978-0743273565 Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman* 978-0140481341

Other required readings will be made available in the course.

# **Course Catalog Description**

A study of representative works of American literature from its beginnings to the present. Texts will include poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction and will explore the evolution of American ideals and character. 4 s.h. Prerequisite: ENGC 1110/1180

#### **Course Resources**

- 1) Computer with basic audio/video output equipment and webcam
- 2) Internet access (broadband recommended)
- 3) Microsoft Word (for required course documents)
- 4) Microsoft PowerPoint (for required course documents)

## **Course Information**

Module	Topics Covered	Hrs/Min. Covered
1	American Roots: Christianity and Capitalism	30
2	American Renaissance: Romanticism	30
3	American Realism: Regionalism and Race	30
4	The American Dream	30
5	The American Century	30
Total Hours Students will Spend Working on Course Assignments (37.5 per semester hour)		150

# **Order of Assignments**

This is a suggested order of completing a week's assignments:

- 1. Watch all videos.
- 2. Begin the long reading for the week.
- 3. Complete the glossary.
- 4. Preview the Discussion Board questions and then do the required reading.
- 5. Write the original Discussion Board original post.
- 6. Complete the long reading for the week.
- 7. Write the paper.
- 8. Write the follow-up Discussion Board post.
- 9. Take the quiz.

## Reading

This is a literature class, and the bulk of the work in the course is reading. You'll need to read the shorter assignments to write discussion board posts by Wednesday, and the longer pieces to finish your paper by Sunday. There are, of course, various ways to avoid reading with the aid of the internet. You can try them, but your grade and your life will be better if you take the time to read the assigned works. They are all short, they are all excellent, and they will connect you with the best ideas the United States of America. You will not like them all equally, but if you give them a chance, you will like some of them a great deal.

#### **Glossaries**

By Wednesday night each week, students will take the list of provided terms and do an informal search for the purpose of understanding the term and its relevance to the class. Wikipedia, dictionary.com, and quality online sources are encouraged. Look up a few different definitions and examples of your term, synthesize your findings, and write the definition in your own words with relevant examples.

#### **Discussion Boards**

Also by Wednesday night each week, you should post your initial discussion board post. This post should be a thoughtful 150-word answer to the question and should reference, where appropriate, specific moments and ideas from the assigned readings. No information outside the course readings and videos should be used. This is a conversation you and your classmates are having about our readings and the ideas in the readings. By Sunday night, you should have posted a 50-word response to another post. These can be difficult to do well. Most folks start with "Good job, \_\_\_\_\_\_," and then repeat what the original post said. Try for more than that. Disagree sometimes (in a kind way), point out something the original poster missed. Follow-up posts should move the conversation to a new place.

# **Reaction Papers**

500-word reaction papers are due at the end of each week, and are the biggest grade in the class. They should represent your best thinking about the books and the ideas in them. They should show the instructor that you have internalized the assigned reading and can talk about it intelligently. Be specific, use quotations from the readings, avoid generalities. You have two tasks in these papers: 1. answer the question, and 2. show that you read and understood the text. No sources from outside the course should be used.

## Quizzes

Quizzes are multiple choice, and may include questions about any and all course content. It may be wise to take them closer to the end of the week, after students have spent some time with the week's material.

# **Learning Outcomes**

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Analyze and Interpret foundational works of American literature according to their genres and historical contexts

Apply appropriate critical and evaluative techniques to early American literary texts

Communicate their ideas about early American literary texts effectively in writing

Identify the Christian Tradition as it appears in early American literary texts

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

Analyze the roots of American identity with regards to Christianity, The Enlightenment, Capitalism, and Race.

Categorize the varied texts of the American Renaissance in terms of genre and recognize the influence of American Romanticism.

Internalize the beauty, rhythms, and intellectual landscape in the evolution of American Literature.

Synthesize the variety of American identities for the sake of participating in a conversation with a student's own perception of what it means to be an American.

Enjoy some of the nation's best writers, thinkers, and poets as they observe their world and humanity and share their understandings with us.

That students would, through their own reflection and writing, discover something about themselves and their country.

# **Class and University Policies**

**Netiquette**, or network etiquette, refers to the guidelines for online communication. Students who continue inappropriate behavior will be handled through the existing processes used to address student conduct.

Student guidelines for online participation:

- Use appropriate language.
- Use correct spelling and grammar.
- Be willing to express your opinion and respect the opinion of others.
- Respond to others in a courteous, professional manner.
- Reread and think before you push the *submit* button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback and always ask for clarification when needed. Instructors have the right to remove inappropriate comments from online posts. Be aware of the University's Academic Dishonesty Policy. To review some detailed guidelines on King's Classroom Civility Policy, see pages 15 and 16

at: <a href="https://www.king.edu/current-students/student-handbook/">https://www.king.edu/current-students/student-handbook/</a>

Total Score	Grade	Value
97-100 points	A+	4.0
93-96.99 points	Α	4.0
90-92.99 points	A-	3.7
87-89.99 points	B+	3.3
83-86.99 points	В	3.0
80-82.99 points	B-	2.7
77-79.99 points	C+	2.3
73-76.99 points	С	2.0
70-72.99 points	C-	1.7
67-69.99 points	D+	1.3
63-66.99 points	D	1.0
60-62.99 points	D-	0.7
Below 60 points	F	0.0

Online Courses Only: The Course Expectation Agreement (CEA) is the acknowledgement of the expectations of the course. The CEA will not be available until 12:01 AM EST on the start date of your course. All students must complete and agree to the expectations on the CEA before beginning coursework. In order to view the course materials, you will need to pass the CEA with a grade of 100%. Students have unlimited attempts to complete this test.

Please note: By answering "Yes" to the questions in the CEA, if you decide to cease enrollment in this course, it will result in a status of a "Withdrawal" vs. your ability to

# "Drop" the course. A "Withdrawal" status in any course results in a financial obligation to the University. (\*See King University Catalog for more detailed policy information.)

**Email Policy:** King University Faculty and Students are required to use their King University email for all King University business correspondence. This requirement includes electronic correspondence with King University personnel and students in the course room. The use of personal or work email accounts for University related business is <u>not</u> permitted.

Honor Code: On my honor, I pledge to abide by the King University Honor Code. I understand that students of King are to be honest in words and actions, in particular, not to lie, cheat, plagiarize, or steal. I pledge to conduct myself in a manner based on Christian values and to require the same of fellow students. I understand that a violation of this Honor Code may result in my appearance before the Honor Council.

\*Academic Dishonesty and Academic Sanctions are addressed in detail in the King University Student Handbook. These sections are applicable to all King University courses and students.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** In the event that any King University campus is closed or classes are cancelled due to weather, all online classes will continue as scheduled.

All classes that normally meet in person are expected to continue via online assignments, web video conferencing, extra assignments, and/or individual conferences. These determinations are made at the discretion of individual faculty members. Students are responsible for checking their King email and/or Canvas announcements to receive direction from the instructor on how the disruption of instructional time will be addressed.

All students are expected to remain apprised of class status in case of inclement weather by checking their King University email. Students may also sign up for Emergency Notifications via text message by going to <a href="https://www.king.edu/about/offices/security-and-safety/emergency-notification/">https://www.king.edu/about/offices/security-and-safety/emergency-notification/</a>. Current King University Inclement Weather Policy is available at <a href="https://www.king.edu/about/offices/security-and-safety/inclement-weather-policy/">https://www.king.edu/about/offices/security-and-safety/inclement-weather-policy/</a>.

# **Support Information**

**Accommodation of Special Needs:** Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations or other disability-related support services must file timely requests each semester with the Office of Learning and Disability Services for accommodations in course work. The University cannot make retroactive accommodations.

The Office of Learning and Disability Services will issue accommodation letters that student must provide to his or her instructor(s) when seeking accommodations. These letters should be provided as much in advance of the needed accommodation as possible. For more information, please contact the Director of Learning and Disability Services by emailing <a href="mailto:disability@king.edu">disability@king.edu</a> or calling (423) 652-4303.



#### **Canvas Support:**

To the left of your page in Canvas, click the blue "help" button for support. Live chat, email or calling 1 (833) 274-1662 is available 24/7. Please be prepared to describe your issue in detail including the course and specific assignment or area you are having issues with.

Email or Portal (my.king.edu) Support: Email helpdesk@king.edu or call 423.652.6019

# **Changes to Syllabus**

The instructor will notify students in writing in a timely manner of any changes to this syllabus.