

ENG 2115: Intro to Literature: American II

Shorter University

Instructor Information

Instructor information is located on the course Moodle page.

Course Information

Credits: 3 credit hours

Prerequisite: ENG 1010; prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 1020

Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of American literature from 1865 to present in various genres. Students will develop a skill set for interpreting and contextualizing literature and will learn to demonstrate those skills in writing through discussion forums and literary analysis.

Required Texts

No textbook is required. All course readings are provided on the course site (Moodle). If a link shows up as dead, try googling the author and title for another link. If that does not help, e-mail me, and I will try to find an alternative.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the theme or themes of selected works.
- Analyze texts to discover meaning.
- Assess the ways in which multiple texts approach similar themes.
- Identify and explain techniques of characterization.
- Discuss works of literature relative to their elements and themes.
- Evaluate a literary work's effectiveness.

Course Policies

E-mail Policy

Students are expected to establish and maintain an e-mail address that is connected to this course's e-mail system and to check their e-mail at least three days per week during the term. Except in rare circumstances, I will respond to e-mails within 24–48 hours (discounting weekends).

Classroom Policies

The following items are expected as a threshold for classroom behavior:

- This course spans 8 weeks, which is half of a normal course length. You should thus expect to spend more time on this course than a typical course because of its condensed nature.
- Due to the nature of a Web-based course, students should assume all comments are made without intending offense. Likewise, students should be careful to post polite responses and questions to classmates and the professor.

Tutoring Services on Campus

Use Shorter's academic services to improve your grammar expertise! Go to <http://www.shorter.edu/>, and click on the icon Academic Services in the bottom right-hand corner of the Web page. Many student support services are available, such as the excellent writing center, helpful GRAB tutoring, and much more.

Class Attendance

Online courses are typically delivered asynchronously, meaning that there are no fixed times when students need to be online. While there is no standard attendance policy for online classes, students are expected to log-in to class several times each week to check for updates and to communicate with the professor and/or with other students. There will also typically be deadlines for the completion of assignments, and there may be requirements that the student participate each week in online chats or forum discussions. In some cases there may be a requirement for the student to log-in at a particular time during the week to participate in a group chat or discussion. As with any traditional course, a student cannot skip several weeks of online classes and expect to succeed! Students should consult each class syllabus for specific requirements.

No Show Policy

Students who fail to complete the mandatory introduction forum within the first 9 class days from the start of the session will be automatically dropped from the class. PLEASE NOTE: Students must login as well as complete mandatory introduction forum within this 9 day period. Simply logging into a course will still constitute as a NO SHOW for the course if the mandatory introduction forum within the actual online course platform is not completed within the first 9 class days from the start of the session.

Students who do login and complete the mandatory introduction forum within the first 9 days from the start of the session, but who then stop participating in their online class will NOT be automatically withdrawn from the class. To withdraw from the class the student must send an e-mail to their advisor and his or her instructor from his or her Shorter e-mail account requesting to withdraw. The withdrawal will be effective from the date of the e-mail request. An automatic F will be given if a student is not properly withdrawn.

Academic Integrity Policy

A Community of Honor

As a liberal arts university committed to the Christian faith, Shorter University seeks to develop ethical men and women of disciplined, creative minds and lives that focus on leadership, service and learning. The Honor System of Shorter University is designed to provide an academic community of trust in which students can enjoy the opportunity to grow both intellectually and personally. For these purposes, the following rules and guidelines will be applied.

Academic Dishonesty

"Academic Dishonesty" is the transfer, receipt, or use of academic information, or the attempted transfer, receipt, or use of academic information in a manner not authorized by the instructor or by university rules. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating and plagiarism as well as aiding or encouraging another to commit academic dishonesty.

"Cheating" is defined as wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material borrowed from another source - including the Internet by a student with the intent of aiding himself or another on academic work. This includes, but is not limited to a test, examination, presentation, experiment or any written assignment, which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade.

"Plagiarism" is the taking or attempted taking of an idea, a writing, a graphic, musical composition, art or datum of another without giving proper credit and presenting or attempting to present it as one's own. It is also taking written materials of one's own that have been used for a previous course assignment and using it without reference to it in its original form.

Students are encouraged to ask their instructor(s) for clarification regarding their academic dishonesty standards. Instructors are encouraged to include academic dishonesty/integrity standards on their course syllabi.

Procedure

- A. It is the responsibility of an instructor to certify that academic assignments are independently mastered sufficiently to merit course credit. The responsibility of the student is to master academic assignments independently, refrain from acts of academic dishonesty, and refuse to aid or tolerate the academic dishonesty of others.
- B. If an instructor determines that the student is guilty of academic dishonesty, the instructor must discuss the matter with the student. In the event the instructor cannot reach the student in a timely manner, such as when the student has gone home at the end of a semester, the instructor may assign a grade of "I" (Incomplete) until the student can be contacted and the matter of academic dishonesty discussed. The instructor then completes the "Academic Violation Form" (see Appendix A) which should include evidence and other necessary documentation. The instructor will determine the appropriate remedy: either to assign a grade of zero on that assignment in question or a grade of "F" in the course. The student will designate whether he/she accepts the

remedy for the violation of the dishonesty policy or wishes to appeal the instructor's decision. If a student elects to appeal, the "appeal due date" line must be completed on the Academic Violation Form. (See the Appeals section below for more information regarding the appeals process)

- C. Upon completion, the instructor forwards the Academic Violation Form to the Registrar's for the placement in the student's permanent record. The Registrar will forward copies of the Academic Violation Form to the student, the faculty member, department chair, academic dean, dean of students, provost, and president. Not appealing when the form is first completed or by the appeal due date will be taken as an admission of guilt, except under compelling circumstances to be determined at the sole discretion of the provost.
- D. If upon receipt of the Academic Violation Form the Registrar determines that the student is guilty of a second offense, then a grade of FD (Failure Due to Academic Dishonesty) will be assigned by the Registrar for the course regardless of the remedy specified on the Academic Violation Form. Assigning the FD is to be done by the Registrar when the second Academic Violation Form is placed in the student's record, and the Registrar will notify all parties in writing. The student is then permanently barred from membership in any honorary society and is permanently ineligible for any SU honor list. The student may petition the Academic Integrity Appeals Committee to have the dishonesty notation removed from the transcript after one year or upon graduating from the University if no additional dishonesty offenses occur and the student satisfactorily completes the Academic Integrity Program. The grade of F remains on the transcript. Upon receipt by the Registrar of a third offense, the Registrar will assign the grade of FD and then notify all parties. After all appeals are exhausted, if the third offense still stands, then the student will be permanently expelled from the University. The notice of expulsion will be forwarded to the student, department chair, appropriate academic dean, dean of students, provost, and president. A copy of the final report with the three offenses will become a part of the student's permanent record. The university reserves the right to expel the student after a first or second offense, depending on the circumstances and at the sole discretion of the provost.

Appeals

- A. The student who wishes to appeal an academic violation charge should submit his/her appeal in writing to the chair of the appropriate department by the appeal due date indicated on the Academic Violation Form, which is normally within ten regularly scheduled class days after the completion date of the Academic Violation Form. This statement should contain the reasons for which the student is appealing the instructor's decision. The burden of proof lies with the student in such a case to show that an error or malfeasance has occurred. Within ten regularly scheduled class days of receiving the written appeal, the department chair will notify in writing both the instructor and the student of the chair's decision. If the department chair is also the instructor who files the Academic Violation Form, then the student must appeal to the appropriate academic dean.
- B. When, in the opinion of the department chair, the student fails to show reasonable cause for further investigation, the chair may deny the appeal without taking further action.

When, in the opinion of the department chair, a student's appeal raises reasonable doubt as to whether a mistake or malfeasance has occurred, the chair will meet with the faculty member and with the student and render a decision within ten regularly scheduled class days of the receipt of the appeal. If the decision favors granting the student's appeal, the department chair may request that the Registrar remove the Academic Violation Form from the student's record. The chair will notify both the student and the instructor of this action.

- C. If the student files the initial appeal or elects to appeal the chair's decision during Maymester, Summer I, Summer II or during final exam week of the Fall or Spring semesters and if the instructor or department chair is not available during that time, all of the foregoing time requirements begin to run with the first day of class in the next major term. In extreme or unusual circumstances regarding the timeliness of the appeals process, the provost will make the final determination.
- D. Any student who has exhausted the remedies open under the procedures outlined above may appeal the entire matter to the Academic Integrity Appeals Committee in writing within ten regularly scheduled class days of receiving the response from the department chair. Upon receipt of the appeal, the Academic Integrity Appeals Committee will review the matter and issue a decision within fifteen (15) regularly scheduled class days. The Academic Integrity Appeals Committee has the authority to deny the appeal, reduce the penalties in the event of extenuating circumstances, or direct the registrar to remove the record of the Academic Violation Form from the student's permanent record. The results of the Academic Integrity Appeals Committee are final.
- E. All results from the proceedings of the Academic Dishonesty Appeals Committee should be reported to the appropriate academic dean, dean of students, provost, and president as information.

NOTE: During the appeals process, the student may continue to attend the class in which the violation occurred.

Students Needing Accommodations

Shorter University provides accommodations for students who have a disability. The student must contact the Director of Educational Support in FSU 219 (706-233-7323) as soon as possible to discuss your needs. Shorter University is committed to providing access to programs and services to all qualified students with disabilities. Student Support Services is located in the Fitton Student Union, Room 219 (706-233-7323). Academic support is available to all students through the Center for Learning and Academic Success at Shorter (CLASS). The Center offers peer tutoring and coordinates study groups for students seeking assistance. Also, students can receive help with writing through individual tutoring in the Writing center. CLASS is located on the second floor of the Sheffield-Thompson building in the Bailor Suite.

Class Assignments

Late Work

Assigned work must be turned in by the given due date. **Late work is not accepted.**

Quizzes and exams must be taken during the scheduled week unless there are documented medical or personal emergencies. Please note: The course website will allow access to quizzes and material only during the particular week they are assigned.

Quizzes

Due Date:

Due on Sundays by 11:55 p.m., ET. (Week 8 is due on Friday.)

Each week you will take a quiz, which will be based upon the e-lecture and readings. Be sure to take the quiz before the due date; access to the quiz will end at 11:55 p.m., ET each Sunday.

Discussion Posts

Due Dates:

Original post due by Wednesday at 11:55 p.m., ET, responses due by Saturday at 11:55 p.m., ET. (Except Week 8 is due on Friday.)

Each week, you are required to write one original post based upon the question provided in the forum for that week. You are also required to post two responses to other people's posts. If possible, try to space your posts out throughout the week. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Guidelines for Discussion Board:

- Saying something is a good point without going into significant detail about WHY it is a good point does not quite fit the "discussion" definition.
- Think of the discussion forum as a conversation. When you're having coffee with someone and they say, "I love summer," you do not simply respond with, "I love winter." You explain why you do not love summer or why you prefer winter. In the same way, responding to posts by stating your interpretation of a text is not discussion. It, essentially, is you writing what should be your own new post in the wrong place. Yes, I want you to state your opinion, but in responses this opinion should be stated in the context of the conversation, i.e., the context of the initial post or the other responses.
- You should use quotations from the text when needed. However, please make sure that your post is your thoughts and not simply you answering the question with quotations. One way to gauge this is to see at the end of a post, whose words are used more? Yours? Or the author of the text the class read? It should be yours. I, and your classmates, want to know what YOU think and how YOU read the texts or parts of the text. So, please do not rely on quotations so heavily that your voice is lost in the post.

Rubric for Discussion Board:

1. Initial post is thorough and shows you have read and thought about the text (20 points).

2. Responses to others' posts are insightful, helpful, and thorough (20 points).
3. Both posts and responses show evidence of critical thinking (20 points).
4. Organization and reasoning are well developed (20 points).
5. Posts are grammatically correct (20 points).

Reading Response Papers

Due Date:

Due on Sunday of Weeks 2, 4, and 6 by 11:55 p.m., ET.

For each reading response, you will be asked to demonstrate how two texts, one from the current week and one from the previous week, demonstrate a common theme (identity, family relationships, the American Dream). As you read the text, you should note ways the author develops such literary elements as character, motif, theme, description, imagery, figurative language, symbol, and setting to create a conflict of human experience and bring it to resolution. **You should not focus on plot summary.**

The paper will be at least three FULL pages, typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font, using MLA documentation and style. You must use primary sources, and you may use outside sources. This paper will be submitted as a Turnitin assignment and, as such, will be run through Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. Please see the Honor Code below. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Literary Analysis Paper

Due Date:

Due on Friday of Week 8 by 11:55 p.m., ET.

Choose one work from our assigned reading this semester that you have not previously used in a reading response. Demonstrate how at least three themes that we have discussed this semester (e.g., individual identity, family relationships, the American Dream, politics and war) are found in the text.

As you read the text, you should note ways the author develops such literary elements as character, motif, theme, description, imagery, figurative language, symbol, and setting to create a conflict of human experience and bring it to resolution. **You should not focus on plot summary.**

The paper will be at least five FULL pages, typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font, using MLA documentation and style. You must use a primary source, and you may use outside sources. This paper will be submitted as a Turnitin assignment and, as such, will be run through Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. Please see the Honor Code below. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Activities and Grade Breakdown

- Weekly quizzes: 20%
- Discussion posts: 20% (one original post plus two responses per week)
- Reading responses: 30% (10% each)

- Literary analysis paper: 30%

A = 90–100

B = 80–89

C = 70–79

D = 60–69

F = Below 60

Course Schedule

Weekly Topics and Activities

Individual Identity	Week 1 Discussion Quiz 1
Individual Identity	Week 2 Discussion Quiz 2 Reading Response 1
The American Dream	Week 3 Discussion Quiz 3
The American Dream	Week 4 Discussion Quiz 4 Reading Response 2
Family Relationships	Week 5 Discussion Quiz 5
Family Relationships	Week 6 Discussion Quiz 6 Reading Response 3
Family Relationships	Week 7 Discussion Quiz 7
Politics and War	Week 8 Discussion Quiz 8 Literary Analysis