

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: American Literature Since 1865
Prefix and Course Number: ENGL 249

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Accurately assess the relationship between literary works and the historical contexts in which they were created and read, including the political, social, religious, and artistic milieu in which American authors wrote between the Civil War and the present
- Accurately describe the history and development of American literature from the Civil War to the present in its varied cultural, ethnic, and social contexts
- Identify characteristics associated with periods of literary history relevant to American literature since the Civil War, such as Realism, Regionalism, Imagism, Modernism, and Post-modernism, and articulate ways in which specific texts reflect and are illuminated by these characteristics
- Articulate ways in which American writers since the Civil War have responded to, adapted, and rebelled against their predecessors in developing new forms of literary expression
- Articulate original critical positions about post-1865 American literary works, using textual evidence appropriately as support
- Locate, and demonstrate an understanding of, relevant critical or scholarly findings about works of American literature since 1865, and use these findings to advance insights about primary texts

Course Outline:

(Note: Authors and titles are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive.)

I. Where we were- The Past

- A. Neo-classical period
- B. Romanticism

II. Movements of American Literature: Civil War to World War I

A. Realism

- 1. Mark Twain as a Transitional Figure
 - a. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
 - b. "War Prayer," *Letters*
- 2. Other Realist Authors
 - a. William Dean Howells, "Editha"
 - b. Charles Chesnutt, "The Wife of His Youth"
 - c. Henry James, "Daisy Miller"
 - d. Edith Wharton, "Roman Holiday"
- 3. Naturalism
 - a. Theodore Dreiser, "Old Rogaum and His Theresa"
 - b. Jack London, "To Build a Fire"

B. Native Literature

- 1. Oratory

- a. Charlot (Flathead), "He Has Filled Graves with Our Bones"
 - b. Black Elk (Oglala Lakota), "Black Elk Speaks"
 - 2. Written expression
 - a. Zitkala Sa (Sioux), *American Indian Stories*
 - b. Winnemucca (Paiute), *Life among the Paiutes*
- C. African American Literature in the Jim Crow Era
 - 1. Washington, *Up From Slavery*
 - 2. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
- D. Literature by Women: Emergent Feminism
 - 1. Chopin, *The Awakening*
 - 2. Glaspel, *Trifles*
- III. Movements of American Literature: World War I to Present
 - A. Modernism
 - 1. Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"
 - 2. Faulkner, "That Evening Sun"
 - B. World War II/Regionalism
 - 1. Hayden, selected poems
 - 2. O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"
 - C. The Beats and Beyond
 - 1. Ginsberg, *Howl* and other poems
 - 2. Plath, selected poems
 - 3. Rich, *Diving into the Wreck* and other poems
 - D. Vietnam and Beyond
 - 1. O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story"
 - 2. Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
 - E. Identity, Multiplicity, 20th century
 - 1. Rethinking Tradition
 - a. Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
 - b. Tan, "Two Kinds"
 - 2. Borderlands/La *Frontera*
 - a. Anzaldua, "La Prieta"
 - b. Cervantes, selected poems
 - 3. Regional Voices
 - a. Erdrich, *Love Medicine*
 - b. Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina*
- IV. Where We're Going: The Future
 - A. Post-post-modernism: Trends in American Literature
 - B. Emerging Authors of the Twenty-first Century