

English 3252: American Literature from 1865 through the Present

Department of English (Humanities)

University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras

Spring 2023 - 3 Units

Tue-Thu 11:30-12:50, LPM 308 (In Person)

Instructor: Daniel Nevárez Araújo

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Office Location and Hours: LPM325; by appointment

Course Description: This course provides a survey of key texts, authors, and topics that help define the dominant tendencies found in, and the continued development of, US literature after that nation's Civil War and into the present. Through an assortment of short stories, novels, essays, and poems, we will explore the changing ideological landscape through a variety of periods, including the Reconstruction era (Realism and Naturalism), the interwar period (Modernism), and the post-WWII period (Postmodernism). The texts selected – some canonical, others not quite – will offer us the chance to meditate on the tensions that characterize each respective period while also giving us the opportunity to analyze contemporary events. Topics will include race, gender, class, nation, citizenship, civil rights, colonialism, mental health, disabilities, and identity. Similarly we also will consider formal choices and their effects on reception and accessibility.

Objectives: Students will gain a better understanding of US literature from 1865 onwards, its periods, tendencies, and key figures. They will also further develop their reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Requirements: Works required include:

- Two-page paper. Due Feb 21st. (10%)
- Four-page midterm paper. Due March 14th. (20%)
- Six-page final paper. Due date to be determined. (30%)
- All papers will be graded based on: thesis clarity; writing soundness and effectiveness; convincing analysis; and creativity/originality of thought.
- Participation and quizzes. (40%)
 - As part of the participation component, each student will be asked to help lead discussion once during the semester. A list will be handed out for discussion selection early in the semester.

Texts: - The Norton Anthology of American Literature: 1865 to the Present, 10th or 9th Edition. Ed. Robert S. Levine.

- Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel.

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Week 1	Thu Jan 26	No class
Week 2	Tue Jan 31	Introduction Read American Literature 1865-1914 Segment Walt Whitman - Song of Myself
	Thu Feb 2	Booker T. Washington - The Atlanta Exposition Address W.E.B. Du Bois - The Souls of Black Folk (Forethought, Ch. 1 & Ch. 3)
Week 3	Tue Feb 7	Charles Chestnutt - The Goophered Grapevine, The Wife of His Youth
	Thu Feb 9	Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins - Talma Gordon
Week 4	Tue Feb 14	Henry James - Daisy Miller: A Study
	Thu Feb 16	Henry James - The Beast in the Jungle Edith Wharton - The Other Two
Week 5	Tue Feb 21	Short paper due Zitkala Sa - The School Days of an Indian Girl
	Thu Feb 23	Sarah Orne Jewett - A White Heron Charlotte Perkins Gilman - The Yellow Wallpaper
Week 6	Tue Feb 28	Read American Literature 1914 - 1945 Jean Toomer - Cane (Excerpts) Claude McKay - The Harlem Dancer, Harlem Shadows, The Lynching, If We Must Die, America Countee Cullen - Yet Do I Marvel, Incident
	Thu Mar 2	No Class - Día de la Ciudadanía Americana

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Week 7	Tue Mar 7	Langston Hughes - Mother to Son; I, Too; Mulatto; Song for a Dark Girl; Note on Commercial Theatre; Democracy; Theme for English B; Harlem
	Thu Mar 9	Zora Neale Hurston - Sweat, How It Feels to Be Colored Me
Week 8	Tue Mar 14	Midterm Due Ezra Pound - Poems William Carlos Williams - The Red Wheelbarrow
	Thu Mar 16	T.S. Eliot - The Waste Land, The Hollow Men Wallace Stevens - Poems
Week 9	Tue Mar 21	William Faulkner - A Rose for Emily, Barn Burning
	Thu Mar 23	Ernest Hemingway - Hills Like White Elephants Evaluación parcial
Week 10	Tue Mar 28	Read American Literature Since 1945 Segment Elizabeth Bishop - The Fish, The Armadillo, In the Waiting Room Gwendolyn Brooks - We Real Cool, The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmet Till, the white troops..., To the Diaspora
	Thu Mar 30	Jack Kerouac - On The Road (Excerpts) Allen Ginsberg - Howl, A Supermarket in California Wildcard #1
Week 11	Tue April 4	Sylvia Plath - Morning Song, Lady Lazarus, Daddy Anne Sexton - Sylvia's Death, Little Girl, My String Bean, My Lovely Woman Wildcard #2
	Thu April 6	Receso Académico

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Week 12	Tue April 11	Audre Lorde - The Cancer Journals (Introduction and The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action)
	Thu April 13	James Baldwin - Sonny's Blues
Week 13	Tue April 18	Alison Bechdel - Fun Home
	Thu April 20	Alison Bechdel - Fun Home
Week 14	Tue April 25	Wildcard #3
	Thu April 27	Wildcard #4
Week 15	Tue May 2	E. C. Osondu - Nigerians in America, Waiting Martin Espada - Alabanza
	Thu May 4	Sherman Alexie - Because My Father... The Only Traffic... This is What it Means... Louise Erdrich - The Red Convertible
Week 16	Tue May 9	Writing Day
	Thu May 11	Writing Day
Week 17	Tue May 16	No class

Policies:

-Attendance is **MANDATORY**. You are allowed 5 absences throughout the semester without any effect on your grade. Each absence beyond that limit is worth **HALF A GRADE POINT** taken off of your final grade in the course. In the event of sickness, please bring a doctor's note. On occasions when you have a scheduled engagement (sports commitment, music performance, family festivity, etc.), please inform the instructor ahead of time so that an arrangement can be made to serve as a substitute for the missing class.

-Please refrain from using cellphones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class. Silence your cellphones. If you expect an important call or suspect an emergency, feel free to walk out of the classroom to answer. The instructor will remind you of this only twice in the semester (during first class and the class following the end of the Add/Drop period). Failure to comply will reflect on your overall grade.

-Please respect your peers and their opinions. No personal attacks will be tolerated. Many of the topics we will engage with can be controversial; therefore, in all cases, formal language is

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to be utilized. Offensive, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist language will not be tolerated. You are to address the instructor and your peers with respect. You are more than welcome to disagree with either the instructor or your peers' opinions, but never in such a way that will devolve into offensive language or personal attacks. When in doubt, it is best to approach a text as a formal construct (how is it written?, what is the author trying to say?, how are words functioning?, etc.); that way we avoid making the task of reading and discussing at text personal.

-Plagiarism constitutes an automatic failing grade and can lead to suspension or expulsion from the university. Please make sure you cite any references, examples, or text taken from other authors accordingly. Give credit even when you use the resource to argue against it. This includes, and is not limited to, internet resources. When in doubt, consult the MLA Handbook. (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)

-Finally, in the event that you have any technical issues with the online learning system, do not hesitate in contacting APOYO TÉCNICO at 787-764-0000 Ext. 80400 or at their webpage: <https://dtaa.uprrp.edu/help-desk/>

-Enjoy this experience and never hesitate in contacting me with concerns.

Important Notices:

Reasonable Accommodation

Students receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that reasonable accommodation and any necessary equipment can be provided, in keeping with the recommendations of the Coordinating Office for People with Disabilities (Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos -- OAPI) under the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Students with special needs must also inform the instructor of any accommodation-related needs.

Academic Integrity

The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR General Student Bylaws (Certification No. 13, 2009-2010, of the UPR Board of Trustees) establishes that "academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: fraudulent actions, obtaining grades or academic degrees using false or fraudulent pretexts, entirely or partially copying academic work from another person, entirely or partially plagiarizing the work of another person, entirely or partially copying responses from another person to examination questions, having another person take any test, oral or written

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examination on the student's behalf, as well as assisting or facilitating any person to incur in the aforementioned conduct." Fraudulent conduct refers to "behavior with the intent to defraud, including, but not limited to, malicious alteration or falsification of grades, records, identification cards or other official documents of the University of Puerto Rico or any other institution." Any of these actions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the respective disciplinary procedure, as stated in the current UPR Student Bylaws.

Discrimination / Sexual Harassment The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination in education, employment and in the provision of services based on race, color, sex, age, nationality, ethnicity, origin or social status, ancestry, marital status, religious or political ideas or beliefs, veteran status, other-abledness (disability), sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms. The university also prohibits sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification No. 130, 2014-2015 of the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment should contact the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for further orientation and/or to file a formal complaint.

Contingency Plan in Case of Emergency

In the event of an emergency or interruption of classes, your professor will communicate with you via institutional email to coordinate the continuity of the course offering. (The full document can be found at: <https://estudiantes.uprrp.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Reglamento-General-Estudiantes-de-la-Universidad-de-Puerto-Rico-2016-2017.pdf>)

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Bibliography:

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