



Hunan University ENG 12: Interpretation of Literature

Professor: To be Announced

Total contact hours: 54 hours

Credit: 4

Course Description

This course aims to introduce students to strategies for interpreting dramatic literature, including some of the key literary and critical theories related to the study of theatre and performance in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. A compelling conflict - with significant stakes - is, arguably, necessary for a play text to appeal to a reading or listening audience and for a production team to desire to stage its own version of it. For this reason, we will focus our exploration of dramatic literature on different scales of conflict and confrontation: local / personal, collective / societal, and global / transnational. We will use these encounters and struggles as jumping-off points to discuss how we read and interpret these plays, which may offer perspectives or articulate events that seem very different from our everyday life. Our playwrights contribute points of view from the United States, Canada, Ireland, England, South Africa, India, and Scotland.

Required Textbook

Textbook: *A History of American Literature*

Author: Richard Gray Publisher:

Blackwell Publishing

Supplementary Readings:

Textbook: *An Introduction to English Morphology: Words and Their Structure*

Author: Andrew Carstairs McCarthy

Publisher: Edinburgh University Press

Assignment

All homework assignments must be submitted prior to the due date.

Late work will not be accepted.



Grading

- Participation 10%
- Paper 1 15%
- Paper 2 15%
- Paper 3 15%
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 25%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	

Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 hours and 15 minutes in length.
 Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

1. The First Americans: American Literature Before During the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods
 Imagining Eden
 Native American Oral Traditions

Class 2:

1. The First Americans: American Literature Before During the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods
 Spanish and French Encounters with America
 Anglo-American Encounters
 Writing of the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods

Class 3:

2. Inventing Americas: The Making of American Literature, 1800 - 1865
 Making a Nation
 The Making of American Myths
 The Making of American Selves

Class 4:

2. Inventing Americas: The Making of American Literature, 1800 - 1865
 The Making of Many Americas
 The Making of an American Fiction and Poetry
 Paper 1



Class 5:

3. Reconstructing the Past, Reimagining the Future: The Development of American Literature, 1865 - 1900

Rebuilding a Nation

The Development of Literary Regionalisms

Class 6:

3. Reconstructing the Past, Reimagining the Future: The Development of American Literature, 1865 - 1900

The Development of Literary Realism and Naturalism

Class 7:

3. Reconstructing the Past, Reimagining the Future: The Development of American Literature, 1865 - 1900

The Development of Women's Writing

Class 8:

3. Reconstructing the Past, Reimagining the Future: The Development of American Literature, 1865 - 1900

The Development of Many Americas

Class 9:

4. Making it New: The Emergency of Modern American Literature, 1900 - 1945

Changing National Identities

Class 10:

4. Making it New: The Emergency of Modern American Literature, 1900 - 1945

Between Victorianism and Modernism

Class 11:

4. Making it New: The Emergency of Modern American Literature, 1900 - 1945

The Inventions of Modernism

Class 12:

4. Making it New: The Emergency of Modern American Literature, 1900 - 1945

Traditionalism, Politics and Prophecy

Paper 2

Class 13:

4. Making it New: The Emergency of Modern American Literature, 1900 - 1945

Community and Identity



Class 14:

4. Making it New: The Emergency of Modern American Literature, 1900 - 1945
Mass Culture and the Writer

Class 15:

Midterm

Class 16:

5. Negotiating the American Century: American Literature Since 1945
Towards a Transnational Nation

Class 17:

5. Negotiating the American Century: American Literature Since 1945
Formalists and Confessionals

Class 18:

5. Negotiating the American Century: American Literature Since 1945
Public and Private Histories

Class 19:

Beats, Prophets and Aesthetes

Class 20:

The Art and Politics of Race

Class 21:

Realism and its Discontents
Language and Genre

Class 22:

Creating New Americas
Paper 3

Class 23:

Overall Review

Class 24:

Final Exam



Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved **ONLY** in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Hunan University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.