McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

AMERICAN LITERATURE

ENGLISH 2326_O082

LAURICE A. JONES

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is an Online course.

FALL 2023

Course Description:

A survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

ENGL 1301 or ENGL 2311

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Emailing Your Instructor: Emailing me is the best way to communicate with me. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your progress in the course, or need to set up an appointment to meet with me during office hours, please email me using the following guidelines:

- Always use your MCC email. Using your personal email risks getting a message filtered into my Spam folder or not getting it at all.
- Always put your first and last name at the end of the email and specify your course name and number.

Never email homework to me in the body of the email as I will not accept it. If you need to send me a document, please attach it to the email as a Word Document (.doc) or share it with me in Google Docs. Other formats will not be accepted.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Laurice Jones
MCC E-mail: ljones@mclennan.edu
Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

Mon   6pm – 8pm
Tue   8pm – 10pm
Wed   6pm – 8pm
Thu   8pm – 10pm
Fri   By appointment only

Required Text & Materials:

Becoming America
Exploration of American Literature from Precolonial to Post-Revolution
ISBN: 978-1-940771-46-5

Writing the Nation
A Concise Introduction to American Literature 1865 to Present
ISBN: 978-1-940771-34-2
Free OER's embedded in the course

MCC Bookstore Website: **http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/**

Methods of Teaching and Learning:
Since the course is totally constructed around online participation, the student should have knowledge of using a Web browser, computer, and e-mail: the ability to create and save documents; the ability to send and receive electronic documents; and a general understanding of online technologies and appropriate online behavior.

Chapter readings, interaction and participation in discussion boards, videos, peer review activities, writing paragraphs and essays, quizzes, and conducting library research.

Units: This course is organized into **eight** units. You are welcome to work ahead and learn at your own pace. Students will find "due by" information in each Unit Folder. You are responsible for carefully reading everything, following the instructions, submitting the assignments per those instructions, and for reading announcements.

Reading Assignments: You are required to read through and understand all the assigned readings and will be quizzed on the material. Typically, your understanding of the readings will be evaluated via quizzes, where you will be required to answer a series of comprehension questions. You welcome to read ahead.

Writing Assignments: You will have several, formal writing assignments over the course of the semester. Each essay is fully explained on the Assignment Sheet document that can be found within the corresponding unit. Each essay must be written within the specified time period. Topic related information will be discussed. Suggested topics for each essay will be available and the essays will be written over a period of time. Much more information on the essays will be provided in the assignment instructions. The use of **MLA 9th edition format** is required. Each essay should be typed in a word processing program and uploaded through the Assignment link. Failure to turn in the essay through the link by the due date will result in a grade of zero. Essays or any other assignments should **not** be sent to my email without a brief explanation of why you are emailing it to me. ASSIGNMENTS SENT TO MY MCC EMAIL WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION WILL NOT BE GRADED.

Paper Formatting: All essays and papers must be typed, double-spaced (unless otherwise notified), with one-inch margins, using the **Times New Roman 12pt font**, with your last name page number located in the upper right-hand corner of the header. They should be written in accordance with **MLA 9th edition format** which we will discuss. Also, make sure to back-up your papers by emailing a copy to yourself as an attachment, saving a copy to your hard drive, and saving a copy to a flash drive or cloud program (Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, etc.) all in .doc format. If you do not have a version of Microsoft Word on your computer, you may download a **free** version of Office 365 from MCC's Technology Help Desk website.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

This course offers a broad survey overview and a foundational basis for general education within the liberal arts. It also prepares students for further study within the academic arena of literature.

- **Critical Thinking (CT):** Requires creative innovation in interpretation, inquiry, and analyses of a wide variety of texts and a synthesis of texts with secondary sources.
- **Communication Skills (COM):** Requires effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility (SR):** Requires consideration of other cultures and other time periods, which in turn leads to knowledge of civic responsibility in regional, national, and global communities. This knowledge prepares students for an understanding of the effects of good social responsibility, as well as the consequences of the lack thereof in communities, nations, and the world
- **Personal Responsibility (PR):** Includes skills in connecting choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making, as demonstrated in the wide variety of texts covered in these classes.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify key themes, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions
- Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods
- Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions
- Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities

- Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Unit 00: Course Introduction
1. Reading Assignment - Syllabus
2. Writing Assignment - **none**
3. Discussion - Unit 00
4. Quiz - Syllabus Quiz

Unit 01 - Beginning to 1820
1. Reading Assignment
   - Introduction
   - Iroquois Creation Story
   - Letter of Discovery
   - Of Plymouth Plantation
   - A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson
   - The General History of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles
2. Writing Assignment – **None**
3. Discussion – Unit 01
4. Quizzes

Unit 02 – Beginning to 1820
1. Reading Assignment
   - Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography
   - Letters from an American Farmer

- Common Sense
- The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano
- On Being Brought from Africa to America
2. Writing Assignment - **Rough Draft** of the Literary Analysis
3. Discussion – Unit 02
4. Quizzes

Unit 03 - American Literature (1820 - 1865)
1. Reading Assignment
   - Introduction
   - Young Goodman Brown
   - Fall of the House of Usher
   - Uncle Tom's Cabin
   - Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
5. Writing Assignment - **Final Draft** of the Literary Analysis
2. Discussion – Unit 03
3. Quizzes

Unit 04 - American Literature (1820 - 1865)
1. Reading Assignment
   - Walden
   - Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
   - Bartleby, the Scrivener
   - Song of Myself
2. Writing Assignment – **None**
3. Discussion Board – Unit 04
4. Quizzes

Unit 05 - American Literature (1865 - 1914)
1. Reading Assignment
   - Introduction
   - A White Heron
   - Up from Slavery
   - The Yellow Wallpaper
   - The Souls of Black Folk
   - The Open Boat
2. Writing Assignment - **Rough Draft** Final Exam Essay
3. Discussion – Unit 05
4. Quizzes

Unit 06 - American Literature (1914 - 1945)

1. Reading Assignment
   - Introduction
   - The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
   - To Build a Fire
   - Mending Wall
2. Writing Assignment - **Final Draft** Final Exam Essay
3. Discussion – Unit 06
4. Quizzes

Unit 07 - American Literature (1945 - Present)
1. Reading Assignment
   - Introduction
   - Death of a Salesman
   - A Rose for Emily
   - Barn Burning
   - A Streetcar Named Desire
   - A Good Man is Hard to Find
2. Writing Assignment – **None**
3. Discussion – Unit 07
4. Quizzes

Unit 08 - American Literature (1945 - Present)
1. Reading Assignment
   - Good Country People
   - Invisible Man
   - Sonny's Blues
   - Recitatif
2. Writing Assignment – **None**
3. Discussion – Unit 08
4. Quizzes

****This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. You will be notified of any changes via email.****

Course Grading Information:
Rough Drafts: 20%
Final Drafts: 40%
Discussions: 20%
Quizzes: 20%

Grading Scale:
A = 900 – 1000pts.
B = 800 – 899pts.
C = 700 – 799pts.
D = 600 – 699pts.
F = 0 – 599pts.

Grading Criteria
An **A** paper (90-100%) is excellent in nearly all respects. It shows originality of thought that goes well beyond material presented in class. It is well argued and well organized with a clear, specific, and ambitious thesis. It is well developed with content that is specific, interesting, appropriate, and convincing. It has logical and artful transitions and is marked by stylistic finesse and varied sentence structures. It demonstrates command of mature diction and has few, if any, mechanical, grammatical, spelling, or diction errors.

A **B** paper (80-89%) is excellent in several respects but may have a less sophisticated thesis, a less distinguished style, some minor lapses in organization and development, some ineffective sentence structures, and some minor mechanical, grammatical, spelling, or diction problems.

A **C** paper (70-79%) is generally competent, but compared to a B paper, it may have a weaker thesis and less effective style and development. It may contain some lapses in organization, poor or awkward transitions, less varied sentence structures that tend toward choppiness or monotony, significant problems with mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction.

A **D** paper (60-69%) is below average and may present a thesis that is too vague or too obvious to be developed effectively. It generally exhibits problems with organization, support, transitions, sentence structures, mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction that impede understanding.

An **F** paper (59% and below) is far below average and may have no clear thesis or central topic. It may display a lack of organization, support, and development. It may contain major and repeated problems with mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction and may fail to fulfill the assignment or may be unacceptably brief.

NOTE: Notice how high the standards for "A", "B", and even "C" papers are. This might be significantly different from your experience in other classes or in high school.

Plagiarism: We will discuss the correct ways of quoting and paraphrasing another's work for proper use in your assignments. Use of artificial intelligence (AI), blatant use of someone else's work without giving appropriate credit, without the person's consent or with the intent of passing someone else's work off as your own will not be tolerated. **Resubmitting work from previous or current semesters will also not be tolerated.** Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the assignment for the first offense. A second offense will result in failure of that assignment as well as the course.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:
Students must submit **at least one** assignment per week for the current unit by 11:55pm CST each Monday in order to be considered present. Absences will be recorded starting with the very first unit. There are no substitutes or make-up assignments for missing discussions, exercises, quizzes or having your Rough Drafts reviewed. Not having an essay reviewed via Smarthinking will result in a loss of **50 points**. Please email me immediately if you have any issues submitting your assignments to Smarthinking.

Smarthinking Access and Expectations:
Smarthinking is an online tutoring program that is located in Brightspace. Once logged into Brightspace, students should be able to access this free service. Rough drafts are to be uploaded onto the Smarthinking site at least **24 hours** before the due date listed on the Assignment Sheet to allow the tutor to review the document, provide feedback, and then email the student with instructions on how to access the report. Smarthinking, while integrated into Brightspace, **is not connected to the Gradebook**; this means that the instructor will need time to review the report before issuing a grade. This process will generally take 24-48 hours after the due date. Rough Drafts that are submit correctly will be graded **Credit/No Credit**; meaning students will receive full points for submitting the report correctly and on time and will not receive credit if the report is not turned in, turned in incorrectly, or turned in late. Students may use the service **as many times as they'd like**, but are only required to submit **one** report for grading.

Keep these things in mind:

1. Typically, it takes 24 hours to get the report back from Smarthinking.
2. Students should receive an email from Smarthinking when the report is ready.
3. Students should follow the instructions in the email to retrieve the document.
4. Students should download and save the document to their computer or cloud program.
5. Students should upload the report onto Brightspace under the correct Rough Draft assignment.

If this process does not work, students should contact MCC's technology help desk for assistance.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:
Any assignments due that day must be turned in on or before the time specified by the instructor. Late assignments will lose **one letter grade** for each day following the due date that they are late, unless otherwise noted for a particular assignment.

In order to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning, no biased or prejudicial language will be tolerated in the Discussion Board forums.

Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy
(https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)
Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:
disabilities@mclennan.edu 2542998122   Room
319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the acting Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a

confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/).

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg. Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/requirements.html for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are

expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- Email Setup for iPhones and iPads
- Email Setup for Androids

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.