MᶜLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

American Literature I: Beginnings to 1865

ENGL 2327.O087

Dr. Jessica Zbeida

NOTE: This is a 16-week Online course.

Course Description:
A survey of the development of American literature from its beginnings to 1865. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:
ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or its equivalent with a grade of C or better.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:
American Literature I guides students through major works of literature from North America. This class requires students to read substantially, engaging with a variety of texts. Students analyze and discuss works of literature using active reading strategies. This course emphasizes critical reading, writing (prewriting, drafting, and revision), collaboration, and the fundamentals of research and citation. Students who complete this course should feel confident to engage with literary texts from diverse cultures and historical periods. ***Note: This is an asynchronous online course, and students must manage their time and complete assignments independently.***

Instructor Information:
Instructor Name: Dr. Jessica Zbeida
MCC Email: jzbeida@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (254) 299 - 8949
Office Location: FOB 113
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TTh, 10 am – 12 pm (also via Zoom)
Other Instruction Information: I respond most quickly to e-mail (within 24-48 hours). If you want to meet outside of office hours, please contact me at least 24-48 hours in advance.

Required Text & Materials:
Title: *The Northon Anthology of American Literature*
Author: Robert S. Levine, et. al.
Edition: Shorter 10th Edition (digital is cheapest)
Publisher: Norton
ISBN: 978-1-324-04371-3

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:
This course uses a variety of learning activities and assessments to help you master the material. Throughout the course, you complete:
- Assigned reading and research (as required for Writing Projects)

- Weekly Literacy Circle (short exercises, discussion, and peer review workshop)
- Two Writing Projects (1000-1200 words, one involving research; both include student-led assessment with peer and self-evaluation feedback forms)
- Two Exams, a Mid-Term and a Final (multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions)

Students will submit their work online in Brightspace (**save your essays in .rtf or .docx format**). *All assignments MUST be submitted online—hard copies are not accepted*.

Course Grading Rubrics

I use holistic grading rubrics for writing projects. This course uses two forms of student-led assessment: peer review workshop and self-evaluation forms. All rubrics and feedback forms appear in Brightspace.

<u>Course Objectives and/or Competencies:</u>
Upon successful completion of this literature course, students will be able to:
1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions in the Americas.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

<u>Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:</u>
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.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you do not submit work in this class before Sep. 6th (census date), you will be dropped. This may impact your ability to get future financial aid.
- If you want to drop the class before Sep. 6th, you may do so. The course won't appear on your transcript. Please speak with me first. If I can help in any way, I will. Please also check with your advisor and with the Office of Financial Aid to understand how dropping this class might affect your academic progress.
- If you withdraw from the class between Sep. 6th (census date) and Oct. 23rd (the 60% point in the semester), you will receive a "W" on your transcript. Consult with me, your advisor, and Financial Aid before you make your final decision.
- **IMPORTANT:** Students are limited to **6 TOTAL** withdrawals over their undergraduate education at ALL Texas public colleges and universities they attend.
- If you miss more than four weeks of class before Oct. 23rd, you may be withdrawn and receive a "W" grade on your transcript.

Though this course takes place online, attendance is required. I take attendance each week. To be counted 'present,' you must **ATTEMPT** one of the tasks due that week. This does not mean you have to do well—you just need to try. You are allowed **TWO** weeks of absences without academic penalty. If you miss **THREE** weeks, you will receive a lower grade, If you miss **FOUR** weeks or more, you may be withdrawn from the course.

Course Outline or Schedule:
All assignments are due on the date specified by 10:00 pm Central Time. A more detailed course schedule that includes reading assignments and other homework appears in Brightspace (see "Start Here" Unit).

Start Here: Course Introduction Unit; Week 1: 8/21 – 8/27
- Print/download course syllabus and schedule.
- Get a copy of textbook (digital copies through MCC bookstore, Norton, or RedShelf).
- Watch "Syllabus Walkthrough" videos in unit.
- Review "Look→Important Student Resources" module in unit.
- Watch "Reading and Writing about Literature" video and additional resources on reading & writing about literature in unit.
- Participate in Literacy Circle: Week 1: "About Me."

Work Due: Literacy Circle: Week 1 (8/26); Assigned Reading: Unit 1, Week 1 (8/28)

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, Mon., Sept. 4th, 2023; MCC Campus Closed

Unit 1: Beginnings to 1820; Weeks 2 – 7, 8/28 – 10/8
- Participate in Literacy Circle for Unit 1 (Weeks 2 - 7).
- Print/download Writing Project #1: Shared Knowledge Resource assignment. Watch "Writing Project #1 Walkthrough" video.
- Watch "Literary Thesis Statements" video and complete an exercise in Brightspace.
- Sign up for a partner(s) for Writing Project #1 using the link in Brightspace.
- Review Excelsior OWL presentation on MLA Style Format and complete an exercise on the content.
- Collaborate with your group to plan, outline, draft, and revise Writing Project #1.
- Schedule a group meeting with Dr. Zbeida to discuss draft of Writing Project #1 .
- Participate in Peer Review Workshop for Writing Project #1 (share a copy of your group's draft and provide feedback on TWO groups' drafts).
- Complete Writing Project #1 Peer Evaluation and Self-Evaluation Feedback Forms.
- Print/download Mid-Term Exam Review packet and use it to study; review UNC Writing Center handout on essay exams.

Work Due: Assigned reading for Unit 1, Weeks 2 – 7; Literacy Circle: WK 2 (9/2); Literary Thesis Statements Exercise (9/3); Literacy Circle: WK 3 (9/9); MLA Format Exercise (9/10); Literacy Circle: WK 4 (9/16); Literacy Circle: WK 5 (9/23); Literacy Circle: WK 6, Peer Review Workshop (Post draft Mon., 9/25; post feedback Fri., 9/30); Peer Evaluation and Self-Evaluation Feedback Forms for Writing Project #1 (10/1); Writing Project #1 (10/1); Literacy Circle: WK 7 (10/7); Mid-Term Exam (10/8).

Unit 2: 1820 to 1865; Weeks 8 – 15, 10/9 - 12/3
- Participate in Literacy Circle for Unit 2 (Weeks 8 - 15).
- Print/download Writing Project #2: Empathy Analysis assignment and watch "Writing Project #2 Walkthrough" video.
- Watch "MCC Library Walkthrough" video; use what you learn to find at least three academic sources for Writing Project #2. Record your source information in MLA Scavenger Hunt exercise.
- Review Excelsior OWL presentation on research and integrating source materials with summary, paraphrase, and quotation. Use what you learn to complete two exercises. Save and submit your results in Brightspace.
- Review Excelsior OWL presentation on recognizing and avoiding plagiarism. Use what you learn to complete an exercise. Save and submit your results in Brightspace.
- Participate in Peer Review Workshop for Writing Project #2 (share your draft and provide feedback on TWO classmates' drafts).

- Complete Writing Project #2 Self-Evaluation Feedback Form and submit it in Brightspace.
- Print/download Final Exam Review packet and use it to study.

Work Due: Assigned reading for Unit 2, Weeks 8 – 15; Literacy Circle: WK 8 (10/14); Literacy Circle: WK 9 (10/21); MLA Scavenger Hunt Exercise (10/22); Literacy Circle: WK 10 (10/28); Paraphrase Exercise (10/29); Literacy Circle: WK 11 (11/4); Signal Phrases Exercise (11/5); Literacy Circle: WK 12 (11/11); Avoiding Plagiarism Exercise (11/12); Literacy Circle: WK 13, Peer Review Workshop #2 (Post draft Mon., 11/13; post feedback Fri., 11/17); Self-Evaluation Feedback Form for Writing Project #2 (11/26); Submit Writing Project #2 (11/26); Literacy Circle: WK 15 (11/30).

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, Nov. 22nd – 25th, 2023; MCC Campus Closed

Finals Week; Week 16, 12/4 – 12/7
Finals Week (No Class)
Work Due: Final Exam due Tues., Dec. 5th, by 10:00 pm (in Brightspace)
Course Grading Information:
Students' final grades are determined as follows:

Course Component	Description	Percentage
Writing Projects	Two Writing Projects (1000-1200 words in length) involving analysis, interpretation, and/or reflection upon the reading; may require research	40%
Homework	Weekly Literacy Circle exercises, discussion posts, and peer review workshop	10%
Participation & Attendance	Includes weekly grades assigned for participation and engagement in course activities	10%
Exams	A Mid-Term and a Final Exam, both consisting of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions	40%

Writing Projects

You will complete two writing projects: a Shared Knowledge Resource (podcast, video, or website) project completed in pairs or small groups (1000+ words) and an Empathy Analysis Essay (1200+ words; requires three academic sources). Assignment sheets and grading rubrics for each writing project appear in Brightspace. All essay assignments are submitted in Brightspace—upload your attachment in .rtf or .docx format. For each writing project, you complete a self-evaluation feedback form that describes what you did, how you felt about it, and what you learned. For the Shared Knowledge Resource project you also evaluate your partner or group members' performance (and receive an evaluation from them).

NOTE: All Writing Projects are submitted to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection tool available in Brightspace. This software compares submissions to material in Turnitin's database, which includes work submitted by other students and information available online. TurnItIn will indicate if material was included in another essay submission or if it was generated by AI (such as ChatGPT). If you plagiarize material by using sources inappropriately or by passing off writing that is not your own as if it is, you may receive a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, along with other disciplinary action, such as a student referral.

Homework

For each week of the course (except Thanksgiving), you complete Literacy Circle. This usually involves discussing and responding to assigned reading, engaging with peers on the material, and reflecting on your learning. You may complete a short writing exercise, discussion prompt, or engage in peer review workshop. To receive credit, you must create a post that addresses the prompt in Literacy Circle and respond to at least TWO classmates' posts. Each week of literacy circle counts as a completion grade—I drop the two lowest grades in this category, so you may miss two weeks of literacy circle without academic penalty. If you miss more than two weeks, your 'homework' grade will drop. Please reach out to Dr. Zbeida if you have questions.

Participation & Attendance

Though this course takes place online, attendance is required. Each week, you receive a grade for participation and attendance. To receive a grade of 'present,' students must ATTEMPT at least one of the tasks due that week. This does not mean you have to do well—you just need to try. You are allowed **TWO absences** without academic penalty. *If you experience a medical emergency or other issue that may affect your ability to attend class, please contact me immediately.* If you have an academic, military, or family obligation that may affect your ability to participate in class during one week of the course, please contact me to discuss your situation. Students are welcome to work ahead, and I do my best to accommodate students' requests.

Exams (Mid-Term and Final)

In this course, you will take two exams: a mid-term and a final exam. Both exams include a multiple-choice and true/false section, a short-answer section, and an essay section. I post a review packet in Brightspace on week prior to the exam. You have two hours to complete each exam. Exams require Respondus LockDown Browser, which you may access via Brightspace. **If you have a disability and receive accommodations, such as additional time on exams, please contact Dr. Zbeida in the first week of the semester so she can adjust the exams in Brightspace.**

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:
As a rule, I do not accept late work. In rare cases (hospitalization, serious car accident, etc.), I will allow students to submit work late, but only if I feel the situation warrants it. If something

unexpected happens that may affect your ability to submit an assignment, please contact me immediately (either by e-mail or phone). **Make-up work is allowed solely at my discretion**. For assignments, I **deduct five points for each day late—assignments that are not submitted within ONE WEEK of the original deadline receive a "0" grade.**

Revision Policy: You may revise your writing projects. After I provide feedback, you have **ONE WEEK** to submit a revision. Send your file to me as an e-mail attachment. You may revise more than once as long as each revision involves careful thought and reflection on higher-order concerns (like an essay's thesis, development, and organization) and lower-order concerns (like grammar and mechanics). When you revise, **you may earn up to 50% of the points you missed back** until you receive a 90 or above; so, if you receive a 60 on an essay and submit a revision, the highest grade you could earn is an 80. If you get an 80 and revise again, you may earn up to a 90. If you earned a 90, you would no longer be able to revise for a higher grade.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

In discussions of literature, controversial subjects often arise. It's important for us to engage in vigorous debate, but it's equally important that **we treat one another with respect.** This is essential for class discussion because success depends on our ability to listen and to empathize. Throughout this course, you should **avoid making comments that disparage or insult people for any reason. Treat everyone in the course as you would like to be treated.**

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.

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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.