

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

American Literature

ENGL 2326. 001

Professor Lori Watts

NOTE: This is a 16 week course

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

Course Description:

Surveys American Literature from its origins through the present. Includes historical backgrounds, as well as social and literary development. Emphasizes appreciation of selected works from a range of writers such as Emerson, Chopin, Dickinson, and Morrison.

Prerequisites: ENGLISH 1301, 2311, or equivalent; must have passed the reading section of the THEA or approved alternate test or credit for READ 0302. Semester hours: 3 lecture hours.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, or ENGLISH 2311 or equivalent: see above course description

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Reading skills are **mandatory** for this course and for all coursework. IF reading and writing skills/experience are limited—it's imperative students take concentrated action to not only 'brush up' but start a regular routine of visiting the instructor for help/feedback, getting help from campus resources (such as the Writing Center) when necessary and being proactive about progress. Additionally, knowing how to take notes, study, manage time and generally being responsible for one's own progress are essential.

Competent college level writing, reading and research skills are a must; **this is a writing intensive course**

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Professor Lori Watts

MCC Email: lwatts@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 299--8901

Office Location: FOB 221

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: **ALL OFFICE HOURS ARE ON ZOOM OR IF F2F IS PREFERRED A SUITABLE AREA FOR DISTANCING. As of now final schedule is not determined so office hours will be announced in class on the first day and given in writing.**

Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *Norton Anthology of American Literature Shorter 10th ed*

Author: Baym, et al

Edition: 10th or e-editions

Publisher: Norton

ISBN: 9780393884449

ALSO: a college punctuation/grammar handbook such as *Rules for Writers* is a very good idea and highly suggested

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

*A discussion and writing heavy course that requires student insight and participation. Also includes some lecture, heavy emphasis on text; daily in class writing; short answer/essay exams; a major research paper; instructor also provides any needed supplemental literary material.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies: Upon successful completion of the course, students should:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical and cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods, regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary works.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development or 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 works in the arts and humanities.

Additionally:

**To read, discuss, analyze and learn to appreciate a variety of work from a broad spectrum of writers

**To place, discuss, and analyze the material within its historical, cultural, social, religious, and/or political contexts.

**To learn about writers' lives—how those lives may or may not have influenced their work

**To write about a literature in a thoughtful, analytical and original way in both researched and non-researched forums

**To use literary analysis as a method for improving critical thinking and problem solving skills

**To learn more about literary trends, definitions, terms, etc and apply them to individual pieces of literature

**To listen to others' views and ideally broaden our perspectives; this includes listening and responding to those perspectives maturely and respectfully

Course Outline or Schedule:

*****BE AWARE: this is NOT a detailed course calendar! Those are given to the class the first day and discussed at length.** THIS IS ONLY A GENERAL OUTLINE OF WHAT A SEMESTER MIGHT INVOLVE. The instructor reserves the right to edit a calendar and assignments as necessary. ALL dates and assignments are subject to change. ANY AND ALL CHANGES ARE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND/OR POSTED ON BRIGHTSPACE IN DETAIL. It is EVERY student's responsibility to be aware of those changes. Once again: this is NOT a detailed course calendar.

****Weeks One and Two**—introduction to the course and its policies, requirements, assignments, materials, etc. Students may be asked to write, in class, a short letter of introduction, detailing past writing and reading experiences. We introduce the first literary pieces—typically Native American

****Weeks Three through Six**—research topics are introduced; daily in class writing and discussion continues; the literature moves, chronologically through authors such as Bradstreet, Franklin, etc. First exam is given in this time.

****Weeks Seven through Nine**—in class writing continues; work on research continues and literature includes later authors such as Poe, Douglass, Chopin and Whitman.

****Weeks Ten through Thirteen**—research paper is turned in; in class writing continues; second exam is given; later authors such as Bonnin, Alexie, Frost, etc are discussed/

****Weeks Fourteen through Sixteen**—daily discussions wrap up; research papers returned; review for and taking of final exam

Course Grading Information:

****A detailed grade breakdown is discussed and given in writing the first day of class; this is referenced throughout the semester.**

****A detailed, multi-page handout that discusses exam, in class writing requirements is also given and discussed at length the first two days of class. This gives sample exam questions and sample in class writing topics.**

ALL students are responsible for this material.

****Two major exams generally make up 40% of the course grade; in class writing is 20% as are the research project and final exam.**

****Students are also given and responsible for the Plagiarism Statement and Academic Integrity policies given with the first week in writing and discussed in class. This is a detailed policy with definitions, examples, and penalties.**

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

*****NO late work is accepted in class; this policy is presented to the class in writing and discussed the first class day. IF there is a legitimate emergency, a clear protocol policy is outlined in writing and presented the first day of class. It is discussed at length, in detail, and is the responsibility of each student to know. That protocol MUST be followed for a discussion of a possible extension for late work. ALL deadlines are given on the detailed calendar the first day of class; students know ALL their assignments and deadlines for the semester from the first day. Planning is therefore necessary.**

*****IF a student knows he/she will be gone ahead of time, it is expected the student will alert the instructor and arrange to turn in the work early. This is also detailed in writing, in class.**

*****Late work cannot be made up or reworked; it is a zero evaluation.**

*****NO make up exams are given unless a legitimate emergency and protocol is followed; in class writing cannot be made up.**

THIS IS ALL GIVEN TO THE CLASS IN WRITING AND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

*****The class follows MCC's Attendance Policy which requires daily record of attendance (it is also recorded on Brightspace) and dropping of students if they reach a 25% absence rate. The instructor drops promptly upon reaching that 25%**

However, the instructor does NOT DROP STUDENTS AFTER THE MCC cut off date—which is on all academic calendars, the course calendar, the Course Policies, and is discussed in class. IF the student is still officially enrolled in the course after that cut off date but is not attending class, he or she will still receive a grade for the course—typically failing.

THE INSTRUCTOR DISCUSSES ALL THIS INFORMATION IN DETAIL IN CLASS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER AND PROVIDES IT IN WRITING.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Each class is given a detailed Conduct Policy in class; it is discussed and all students are responsible for the information. It lists acceptable and unacceptable behaviors and what is expected of mature, responsible, college students. ALL students are expected to maintain a mature and professional stature throughout the semester in regard to their classmates and the instructor. This includes face to face, phone and electronic communication.

Rude, offensive, and/or threatening behavior is dealt with on an individual basis usually involving written communication from the instructor, personal conferences with the instructor and/or other college officials. If further action is needed, the conduct is officially reported to MCC's Disciplinary Officer for more intervention. Removal from the class tentatively or permanently can be a result. If extreme, the instructor will involve Campus Security. As outlined in the *Highlander Guide*: "*Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.*"

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<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.

Updated 11/04/2022

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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 254-299-
8122
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, (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/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 from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am - 5:00 pm on Friday. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom (<https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998500>) or email (ast@mclennan.edu) during the above mentioned times.

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.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-andStaffCommons/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.