



WACO, TEXAS

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**AMERICAN LITERATURE TO THE CIVIL WAR**  
**ENGL 2327**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

REVISED: 09/10

## AMERICAN LITERATURE TO THE CIVIL WAR

### ENGL 2327

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#### **Course Description:**

English 2327 surveys a range of American works through the Civil War with a variety of authors including Hawthorne, Douglass, Poe, Wheatley, and Rowlandson. Includes historical background as well as literary development. May be taken before, after, or concurrently with other literature courses. Prerequisites: ENGL 1302 or equivalent; THEA or approved alternative reading test passed or credit for READ 0302. Semester Hours 3 (3 lecture)

#### **Required Text & Material:**

To access updated information on textbooks, please visit [www.bkstr.com](http://www.bkstr.com)

#### **Course Objectives:**

- A. Students should demonstrate an awareness of a number of American authors and works
- B. Students should demonstrate the ability to think, write, and speak critically of a number of American writings
- C. Students should be knowledgeable about literary trends of this time period
- D. Students should develop an appreciation for American writings

#### **Course Outline:**

Students will read a number of selected works, novels, short stories, essays, poems, and plays that will provide a basis for class discussion, group projects, and individual writing assignments. Students will write at least two papers (2-4 typed pages); suggested types of essays are explication, analysis, the documented essay, a review, a summary of a scholarly article, and historical research.

### An Example of Suggested Writing Assignments (and Essay Questions)

1. Students can write an analysis of a scholarly article on one of the authors studied. A documented paper, this essay will integrate the student's own perceptions of a work (or an author) with the observations from a secondary source.
2. Students can trace a motif appearing in several of the works. The paper may be supported by secondary sources, or it may utilize citations only from the primary source (or both).
3. Students can place a current issue or problem in its historical literary perspective. For example, a Native American tale can be analyzed in conjunction with the today's controversy over the origins of life. Or, one of Kate Chopin's tales could be discussed in relation to the Black-White problem or a gender issue.
4. Students can investigate the historical background for a work or an author. Washington Irving and the movement for American cultural independence from English could be explored. Another example would be to examine Uncle Tom's Cabin's contemporary reception. Or, Ralph Ellison, Maxine Hong Kingston, or Leslie Marmon Silko as "spokespersons" for a particular ethnicity in a particular time could be analyzed.
5. Students can take a position on the censorship of works such as The Scarlet Letter, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, or any modern work.
6. Students can trace the evolution of college anthologies for literature survey classes. To be discussed would be the works added, the works dropped, and possible reasons for the changes.
7. Students can compare and contrast a work from the course and a work they have read independently. For example, "The Yellow Wallpaper" could be examined in conjunction with The Bell Jar or a recent autobiographical account of madness.

### **MCC Attendance Policy:**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. In the case of online and hybrid courses, attendance will be determined in terms of participation, as described in the course syllabus.

Absence from 25 percent of scheduled lecture and/or laboratory meetings will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course, and the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and will complete the course. If the student's 25 percent absences are reached after the official drop date, the instructor may assign a W, if the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn. However, if a student who is not passing reaches the 25 percent point after the official drop date, the student will receive an F. In extenuating circumstances, the instructor may assign a W to a student who is not passing.

Each absence will count toward attendance requirements in each course.

Students will be permitted to make up class work and assignments missed due to absences caused by (1) authorized participation in official College functions, (2) personal illness, (3) an illness or a death in the immediate family, or (4) the observance of a religious holy day. Also, the instructor has the prerogative of determining whether a student may make up work missed due to absences for other reasons. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of the reason for an absence and to do so in a timely fashion.

#### Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

McLennan Community College shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities including examinations for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students are required to file a written request with each instructor for an excused absence. A student whose absence is excused for this observance may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under the Texas Tax Code. McLennan Community College may not excuse absences for religious holy days which may interfere with patient care.

Note: Students interested in seeing the class attendance policy in its entirety should check the Highlander Guide or the MCC policy manual.

#### **ADA Statement:**

In accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the regulations published by the United States Department of Justice 28 C.F.R. 35.107(a), MCC's designated ADA co-coordinators, Mr. Gene Gooch - Vice President, Finance and Administration, and Dr. Santos Martinez - Vice President, Student Services, shall be responsible for coordinating the College's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under

ADA. Students with disabilities requiring physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact Mr. Marcus Sweatt, Disabilities Specialist, at 299-8122 or [msweatt@mclellan.edu](mailto:msweatt@mclellan.edu).