



COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2023	COURSE NO: ENGL 205	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Introduction to American Literature	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat), x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lílwətaʔt/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through online or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

6 credits of 100-level ENGL

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of American literature and culture. What has been the contribution of US writing to the histories of the novel, poetry, theatre, and film, in conversation with a broader range of artforms? How has America's literary imaginary been shaped by its colonial and revolutionary history, slavery and post-slavery, Indigenous dispossession, consumerism, industrialization/deindustrialization, and US geopolitical hegemony? Students will explore these and other questions through a sampling of some of the most exciting works in US literary history and criticism.

COURSE NOTES

ENGL 205 is an approved Culture and Creative Expression course for Cap Core requirements. For the focus of the course each term, see the "Courses" page on the English Department website.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

A selection of fiction, poetry, drama, and/or other primary works, along with critical and scholarly readings. The course may make use of a published anthology or coursepack. Specific texts will vary depending on the instructor and term.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Interpret and critically evaluate a range of American literary works and their significance both within and beyond American cultural paradigms with the attention to the complex relationship between nation building, canonization and settler-colonialism.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the socio-historical contexts in which American literary works have been produced, circulated, and read.
3. Connect the formal and expressive features of literary texts to different social, political, and economic movements in modern American culture.
4. Incorporate detailed observation, synthetic thinking, and insightful interpretation in written and oral work to demonstrate the ability to read with attention
5. Analyse settler-colonial, racial, and heteropatriarchal power structures as both sustained and critiqued by American literature and criticism.
6. Recognize the limited, exclusionary, and colonial nature of the literary canon. Attend to the important work that has been done to critique, expand, and diversify the canon.
7. Compose insightful and creative essays and oral responses with a degree of historical awareness, self-reflection, analytical rigour, and imagination, including an awareness of settler-colonialism in its past and present forms.
8. Recognize that learning is a communal experience that includes self-reflexivity about one's positionality, lived experiences, and communal/social responsibilities.

Students who complete this Culture and Creative Expression course will be able to do the following:

1. Engage in creative processes including conception, investigation, execution, and ongoing critical analysis.
2. Identify, analyze, and critique the elements of a form of expression using its specific vocabulary.
3. Explain or demonstrate the connection between various events, ideas, traditions, and belief systems and the modes in which they are artistically or culturally expressed.
4. Interpret diverse forms of creative expression from different perspectives (e.g. artistic, historical, Indigenous, literary, scientific, philosophical).

COURSE CONTENT

The content and week-by-week breakdown of the course will vary by term and instructor. The following is an example:

Week 1	<p><u>Unit 1: Introduction: Nation and Tradition</u> Critical selections from Henry Nash Smith and DH Lawrence; William Sanders (Cherokee), "The Undiscovered"</p>
Weeks 2-3	<p><u>Unit 2: This Land is Whose Land?</u> AIM poetry by John Trudell (Santee Sioux); works by Willa Cather, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson; Coyote stories retold Alfonzo Ortiz (Pueblo); poems and stories by Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna Pueblo)</p>

Weeks 4-5	<u>Unit 3: Industry and Leisure</u> Selections from Herman Melville, Upton Sinclair, Charlotte Gilman Perkins, Zora Neale Hurston, CLR James
Weeks 6-8	<u>Unit 4: The Color Line</u> Selections from Frederick Douglas, Harriet Jacobs, W.E.B. DuBois, Claude McKay, Toni Morrison
Weeks 9-11	<u>Unit 5: Art and Crime</u> Works by Edgar Allan Poe, Raymond Chandler, Patricia Highsmith, Alfred Hitchcock, Linda Hogan (Chickasaw Nation)
Weeks 12-13	<u>Unit 6: Refashioning Intimacy</u> Works by Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Gertrude Stein, Frank O'Hara, Samuel Delany, Kathy Acker
Weeks 14-15	Final Exam Period

Content Warnings

The readings and lessons in this course are designed to challenge and transform your thinking and to help you develop your capacities for engaging critically and empathetically with the world around you. At times, course materials may contain potentially triggering content for some students. In the interest of creating safer spaces for all members of our university community so that everyone's learning can flourish, instructors and students will aim to provide content notes ahead of time and will encourage everyone to communicate any specific concerns they might have.

Also, please note that questioning our social conditioning, assumptions, or privileges may make us uncomfortable at times, but doing so is a vital part of collective learning and self-growth. While students may feel uncomfortable when engaging with certain course materials or class discussions, they should not be made to feel unsafe. In order to create a supportive classroom environment, it is vital that we all respect each other's privacy, boundaries, and identities.

EVALUATION PROFILE

Written Assignments*	50-80%
Tests & Quizzes	10-20%
Presentations & Group Projects	0-20%
Participation**	0-10%
Total	100%

* To include one graded assignment returned prior to the withdrawal date. No single assignment to be worth more than 35% of the final grade.

****Participation grades are based on the consistency, quality, and frequency of contributions to class discussions. Consistency means attending every class, maintaining a positive and respectful presence in the classroom, and actively contributing to discussions on a regular basis. Quality means demonstrating respect for peers and their contributions; listening attentively during lectures and when other students are speaking; and participating in all activities with an open and inquisitive mind.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

The assignment structure for this course is determined by the instructor in accordance with the learning outcomes outlined above. Please refer to the course syllabus and eLearn site for a more detailed breakdown.

Written Assignments

This course will include a combination of short written assignments (e.g. reading responses, primary source analysis, article review) and longer assignments such as a research essay.

Tests and Quizzes

This course may include a combination of quizzes and tests (e.g. pop quiz, midterm exam). The format of tests and quizzes will be determined by the instructor and may include a combination of short answer and essay questions.

Presentations

This course may include a presentation component, which may be an individual or group assignment (e.g. in-class debate, academic poster, research presentation). Detailed instructions will be provided in class and on eLearn.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A = 80-84	B = 70-72	C = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. Except in legitimate circumstances (such as illness documented by a doctor's note), late essays will receive no credit. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling, and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note taking only.

Online Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.

DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Treating everyone with respect and compassion is a responsibility we all share in creating an inclusive environment that is conducive to learning. Our diverse backgrounds, identities, experiences, languages and learning styles should not only be respected in the classroom but also celebrated as a source of expanding our understanding of other people and, in turn, our capacity for empathy. Students and instructors are expected to cultivate open-mindedness and remain aware of, and sensitive to, the diversity of identity and experience in our university community.