

English 122: Introduction to American Literature

Adam McCune

E-mail: afmccune@email.unc.edu

Office: Greenlaw 506

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Required Texts

Nina Baym et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Shorter Eighth Edition. 2 vols. Norton, 2012.

ISBN: 978-0393918885

Arthur Miller. *The Crucible*. Penguin Classics, 2003.

ISBN: 978-0142437339

Course Pack

Additional reading material

Additional readings will be provided on Sakai (under Resources, in the Readings folder).

Evaluation:

Written Projects	40% (20% + 20%)
Midterm & Final	40% (20% + 20%)
Exam Question Submissions	5% (2½% + 2½%)
Participation	15%

Grading Scale:

A = 94-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D + = 67-69	F = 0-59
A- = 90-93	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-66	
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Written Projects

You will complete two written projects, **4-5 pages each in correct MLA format**, not including Works Cited in the page count. They may both be essays, or you may write an essay for the first project and a mimetic response for the second project.

Essays

For your essays, you may write about any of the texts in the course (even those we have not yet read). Each essay should present an argument that uses evidence from the literary text (or texts) to defend an interpretation of that text (or texts). (Secondary research—that is, interacting with criticism about the text written by previous scholars—is optional, but you must cite any sources you do use, and your selection of sources will be evaluated.) For more details on how these papers will be evaluated, see the Essay Rubric (Sakai Resources: Guidelines and Rubrics).

Select your paper topic from the list on Sakai. You will need to refine your topic into an interpretive thesis.

Mimetic Response

Mimetic responses should imitate and respond to two or three texts assigned in the course (you may choose any assigned texts, even those we have not yet read). You must include a brief rationale indicating what you are responding to in the originals—which elements of theme and style you are building upon. Whether you disagree with some or all of the originals or agree with some or all of them and want to extend their ideas, put the works in conversation with each other and make your own point about the themes you’ve identified in the originals. At the same time, imitate the originals, using and adapting (for example) their plots, characters, symbols, style of language, etc.

For an example of a mimetic response project (including rationale), see “Sample Mimetic Response” under “Guidelines and Rubrics/Mimetic Response” on Sakai (note that this example is much longer than your project should be). This project imitated and responded to Hemingway’s *In Our Time* and Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. The rationale points out that both authors describe bullying and violence: weak characters are pushed around by bullies and eventually act cruelly themselves. The project explored this theme by placing the bullied protagonist of *In Our Time* among the predatory bullies of *Wonderland*, using Carroll’s fantasy setting and Hemingway’s terse prose style.

For more details on how these projects will be evaluated, see the Mimetic Response Rubric (Sakai Resources: Guidelines and Rubrics).

Midterm and Final Exams

The exams will consist of multiple choice questions based on the assigned readings and lecture/discussion in class. The midterm will cover works from the first half of the class, and the final will cover works after the midterm.

Exam Question Submissions

Twice in the semester, you will turn in Exam Question Submissions. For each assignment, you will select **two authors** we have studied (you will sign up for which two authors in advance, on Sakai, so that not everyone writes about the same authors). For each author, you will compose four multiple-choice questions and answers about the author and his/her works which we have read—**eight total** questions/answers for the two authors. The four questions for **each author** should include:

- one question based on the reading of his/her literary works assigned in this class
- one question based on the lecture/discussion of his/her literary works assigned in this class
- one question about the author’s life, and
- one passage recognition question.

The questions should:

- draw on either the reading assignments or lecture/discussion in class, or both
- reward participation: that is, they should be easy to answer for an attentive reader and listener, but hard for someone who did not read or pay attention in class
- be unambiguous (only one correct answer), and:
- test what is most important to know about the author and his/her work.

Well-crafted question submissions—or an altered version of them—may show up on exams.

For an example of what a completed assignment might look like, and for more details on how the assignment will be graded, see Sakai Resources: Guidelines and Rubrics.

Participation

Your participation grade will be determined by the Class Participation Contract.

Course Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. The discussion format requires consistent attendance in order to be successful. As noted in the Class Participation Contract, your participation grade will be lowered for absences. In addition, any student who has seven (7) or more absences may receive an F for the course. It is also important for you to get here on time, ready to participate.

In the event that you do miss class, you are still responsible for (1) turning in any assignments due that day on time (on Sakai), and (2) learning what you missed in class (from your classmates).

Conferences

My office hours are listed on the first page of this syllabus. You do not need an appointment to stop by during office hours, although those who have an appointment will take priority. I will also answer questions over e-mail (see below).

E-mail

I am generally easiest to reach electronically. My e-mail address is listed on the front of the syllabus and is also available through Sakai. **I will usually respond to email within 24 hours during the school week (M-F). Please do not e-mail a question about an assignment due in fewer than 24 hours. In all other cases, if you do not receive a response within 24 hours during the school week, please re-send the message.**

Also, please do not send me drafts or assignments over e-mail unless I have specifically requested that you do so. You may send me passages from essays/assignments with specific questions/concerns (as long as it is at least 48 hours before the assignment is due), and if you would like more feedback, please bring your draft to office hours.

You are expected (by all your instructors) to check your e-mail regularly, especially between class meetings and after you e-mail a question. Unless you're sure otherwise, always write formally to your instructors (and employers, and potential instructors or employers).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a violation of the Student Honor Code. You must document all sources of information that you incorporate into your papers. A person commits plagiarism when he or she represents someone else's ideas as his or her own. Any cases of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with UNC policies.