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Office Hours: [MWF \(9:00-10:00\)](#)



Syllabus (Spring 2012)

Objective Overview of American Literature from the Colonial period to the present; reading, discussing, and writing about the literature within its historical and philosophical context.

Texts/Supplies Concise Anthology of American Literature, seventh edition (McMichael and Leonard); My Ántonia (Cather)

Blackboard Course Site To access the course site go to the following URL: <http://blackboard.reedleycollege.edu>. Follow the directions for logging in. You will need to be officially enrolled before you will be allowed to enter the site.

Students on the wait list will not have access to the course site until they have been given an authorization code and their enrollment in the class is verified.

Necessary Programs In order to do work from home, you should have the following programs (all of which are installed on computers on campus): Internet browser (such as Internet Explorer or Firefox); district e-mail account (my.scccd.edu); word processor (MS Word preferably, see Paper Format below); Adobe Acrobat Reader for research materials.

Attendance Although an online class does not chart attendance per se, you do need to make your presence known every week. There will be objective and/or reading response quizzes almost every week and Discussion Board assignments in addition to the papers, Midterm, and Final. If you fall behind at any point during the course of the semester, you will find it extremely difficult to catch up. In addition, I will periodically check your access of course site materials and the extent of your use of the Tegrity lectures; if I do not see sufficient participation, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

Discussion Board The Discussion Board is an important part of the class and each student must

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Discussion Board

The Discussion Board is really where the life of the class takes place, and as such we want to grant it the importance it is due. So, let me make a couple of observations:

- First, unlike discussion in a traditional classroom, you have the opportunity to think carefully and deeply about the things that you "say" on the Discussion Board without the constraint of time pressure or the concern of whether or not your voice will be heard over the voices of others; you also have the opportunity to edit your remarks. Please take advantage of those opportunities.
- Second, because this is an academic environment, please do not consider the Discussion Board as analogous to text messaging, instant messaging, or e-mail to friends. Your comments should be grammatical and mechanically sound with regards to spelling and punctuation.
- Third, your role on the discussion board is to talk with each other about the reading. While I will be starting the conversation with questions, I hope that you will address your comments to each other. I will, of course, answer questions that you have about assignments, but I'd like for you to use the discussion board as a way of learning from each other.
- Finally, remember that a significant portion of your grade is based upon the quantity, but more importantly, the quality of your participation.

Late Papers/Missed Exams

I will accept no late papers unless you have contacted me prior to the deadline posted for the assignment.

[There will be no make-ups of missed quizzes or tests for any reason, no matter how compelling.](#)

Grades

There will be three major papers, a Midterm, and Final. Almost every week you will take a quiz covering details of the reading, and you will participate in the Discussion Board throughout the course of the semester. The papers will be judged on the basis of style, organization, content, and the degree to which you have followed the directions for the assignment. No essay seriously deficient in the area of mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation) will receive a passing grade. In order to receive a passing grade for the class, you must have passing scores for at least two of the papers. The percentage and grade scales are listed below.

Plagiarism

Use of another's work as though it were your own will not be tolerated. In the current Reedley College Catalogue, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

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Extra Credit During the course of the semester there will be several readings sponsored by Reedley College Speakers Series and Reedley College First Wednesdays at One. Other local events may also be applicable. Following your attendance at a reading you must complete and submit an Extra Credit Assignment to receive as many as ten points per reading. You may earn as many as forty extra credit points during the semester. I will give you notice of dates and times. Please note: extra credit is just that--extra; if you are unable to attend extra credit events due to schedule conflicts, lack of transportation, or for any other reason, I will not provide alternative events or assignments.

Paper Format All work must be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of a standard typeface (Times Roman, preferably). You must submit your work via the Assignments area. You must submit files in one of the following formats: Word documents (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text Format files (*.rtf).

Accommodation If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Schedule of Assignments

Discussion Board forums	6 forums at 50 points each 300 points total
Quizzes	100 points
Midterm	50 points
Final	100 points
Paper #1	100 points
Paper #2	150 points
Paper #3	200 points
Total	1000 points

Grading Scale

A	900-1000	90-100%
B	800-899	80-89%
C	700-799	70-79%
D	600-699	60-69%
F	000-599	00-59%