

**MIDSTATE COLLEGE**  
**411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614**  
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**Summer 2002**

**English 220: American Literature**

**Instructor Information:**

Steve Bortolotti

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**Credit hours:** 4 Hrs.                    **Method of Delivery:** classroom

**Text & Manual:** Anthology of American Literature. ISBN # 0-13-083815-2

**Editors:** George McMichael, et al.

**Publisher:** Prentice Hall, 2000

**Course Description:** A study of selected writings by the major authors of American literature. The course encompasses the ideas and artistic expression of American prose from the early stages to the present, but focus is on the literature from the realistic period to the present.

**Prerequisite:** English 117

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to the following:

- Interpret and appreciate writings of wide variety American authors.
- Critically analyze and discuss specific literature periods, authors, and their works.
- Recognize and appreciate the contributions of the selected group of authors to the American literary scene.
- Develop opinion and interpretation of authors' works through essay writing using outside scholarly criticism.

**Grading scale:**

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 – 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

**Assessment of learning/Methods of evaluating student's performance:** Lectures and reading assignments, quizzes, tests, and essays will be the instructional method in this course Attendance, class participation, assignments, and the final exam are the criteria for evaluating student performance. **For every absence, 1% will be deducted from your overall final average.**

**Requirements for Completing the Course:** In-class learning will include lectures, required reading, and student participation. It is important to bring your text to class. It is important that you contribute to class discussions by sharing your impressions of the selected readings; this enhances learning for everyone.

Taking **quizzes/exams** at times other than those scheduled will NOT be allowed except under very extreme circumstances, and then only if you contact me before the exam is taken by the class. Late **assignments** will not be accepted. All assignments and hand-ins are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

**Topics:**

**Tentative schedule of topics, readings, due dates, etc.**

**May 22 –**

**Class: Introduction; The Age of Realism;**

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry - Walt Whitman**

**Read:** pp. 1-8 in text

**Read:** “As I Ebb’d with the Ocean of Life”; “I Saw in Louisiana a Live Oak Growing”

**Read:** Chapters I – X of Huck Finn.

**May 27 -**

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry - Walt Whitman**

**Class:** Discussion of Whitman, Rise of Realism

**Read:** “O Captain! My Captain!”; “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed.”

**Read:** Chapters XI – XX of Huck Finn.

**May 29 -19<sup>th</sup> Century Short Stories – Edgar Allan Poe**

**Read:** “The Telltale Heart”; “The Black Cat”

**June 3 - 19<sup>th</sup> Century Short Stories - Edgar Allan Poe**

**Read:** “The Cask of Amontillado”

**Read:** Chapters XXI – XXX of Huck Finn.

**June 5 - 20<sup>th</sup> Century Poets - Robert Frost**

**Read:** “The Road Not Taken”; “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.”

**June 10 - 20<sup>th</sup> Century Poets - Robert Frost**

**Class:** “Nothing Gold Can Stay”; “Fire and Ice”

**Read:** Chapters XXI – LX of Huck Finn.

**June 12 - 20<sup>th</sup> Century Poets - Carl Sandburg**

**Read:** “Chicago”; “The Harbor”

**Quiz:** Chapters XXI – LX of Huck Finn.

**June 17 - 20<sup>th</sup> Century Poets - Carl Sandburg**

**Class:** “Happiness”; “Fog”; “Cool Tombs”; “Grass”

**June 19 – Test: Whitman, Poe, Frost, Sandburg**

**June 24 – 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel – Mark Twain**

**June 26 -**

**Class:** Mark Twain

**Quiz:** Chapters I – X of Huck Finn

**July 1 –**

**Class:** Mark Twain

**Quiz:** Chapters XI – XX of Huck Finn

**July 3 -**

**Class:** Mark Twain

**Quiz:** Chapters XXI – XXX of Huck Finn

**July 8 –**

**Class:** Mark Twain

**Quiz:** Chapters XXX – LX of Huck Finn

**July 10 - Test: Huck Finn**

**Extra Credit – See “Big River” at Corn Stock Theatre**

**July 15 – 20<sup>th</sup> Century Playwrights**

**Class:** Tennessee Williams – The Glass Menagerie

**July 17 -**

**Class:** Tennessee Williams - The Glass Menagerie

**July 22 -**

**Class:** Tennessee Williams – A Streetcar Named Desire

**July 24 -**

**Class:** Tennessee Williams – A Streetcar Named Desire

**July 29 -**

**Class:** Arthur Miller – The Crucible

**July 31 -**

**Class:** Arthur Miller – The Crucible

**August 5 -**

**Test: Drama**

**August 7 -**