

Syllabus - ENGL 2328 Spring 2003 UTPB

American Literature Since 1865

T/Th 12:30; MB 447

Dr. Kenneth Sherwood

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A study of major and minor literary works. Students develop the skills of close reading, interpretation, and analysis while gaining insight into American literature, history, and culture. Reading, class discussion, and formal/informal writing assignments help students to think about how individual works and authors accept, rework, reject, and otherwise interact with dominant issues of their time.

Texts

The Norton Anthology of American Literature (package 2, vols. C,D,E), Baym et al, eds.
A Short Guide to Writing About Literature, Barnet and Cain, eds.

Other Resources

ENGL 2328 Class Web Page (www.utpb.edu/~sherwood/)*

Norton American Literature Web (www.wwnorton.com/naal)*

UTPB Galenet Databases (infotrac.galenet.com/menu), especially: Contemporary Authors/CLC/DLB, Literature Resource Center, Twayne Authors, and Scribner Writers

[*Internet access will be necessary in this course; insure that your schedule allows access, either at home or on campus. Some UTPB databases may require you to access on campus (or via proxy); email me if you have difficulty.]

Requirements

Quizzes - announced or unannounced reading quizzes, as well as any minor writing assignments completed in class or as homework.	10%
Participation - preparedness and engagement in class discussion; marginal notation; regular posts and responses to web discussion.	10%
Exams - Mid-term and Final; open book; primarily paragraph and essay-length responses.	40% (mid 15%, Final 25%)
Essays - moderate-length analysis with draft and revisions; longer research essay with draft and revisions.	40%

Attendance is assumed. Each student is allowed three absences, beyond which the student's final average will be reduced 2% points per absence including the first three. Students who anticipate missing five or more classes for health, family, or other personal reasons should consider taking the class at another time. UTPB requires that students attending sponsored events (eg. athletes) be given the opportunity to make up work; a typed, 350-word discussion of assigned material will be expected within one week of such absences. Fairness requires that no exceptions be made.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Collusion

UTPB Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students are expected to be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the university. 'Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.'

Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the university, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced--Student Discipline for Scholastic Dishonesty: A Guide for Administrators, Faculty, and Hearing Officers (28).

See also: www.utpb.edu/UTPB_Student/Students/StudentLife/StudentService_Other/StudentGuide/main_student_guide.htm

Scholastic Dishonesty is a serious matter. I am savvy and vigilant in detecting students who use unattributed web sources, "collaborate" with fellow students, or utilize other "clever" methods to enhance their grades. Take the grade you honestly earn on an assignment. Should a classmate attempt to use your work, refuse; I make no distinction between cheaters and those who aid them. A plagiarized assignment will earn you a zero for the assignment and referral to the Vice President for disciplinary action.

Expectations, Workload, and Help

Each semester credit hour at UT Permian Basin represents a commitment on an average of three hours of 'out of class' preparation and one hour of class attendance (or its equivalent) per week. For example, enrolling in a three semester credit hour class commits the student to a total of twelve hours of work per week. Students who are employed or who have family responsibilities are especially encouraged to bear this commitment in mind and to seek guidance from their academic advisors in determining a suitable academic schedule

(UTPB Undergraduate Catalog 2001-2003; 57).

This will be a challenging college course. We will discuss all major texts during class, but I expect that you will have closely read and reflected on them in advance. As in all literature courses, you must make the effort to draw your own inferences about the texts you read and be prepared to learn how to articulate and justify your interpretations. Make sure you schedule time for reflective reading; falling behind in the reading diminishes what you can gain from each class. I will expect that your written work, if not "original," will do more than simply reprocess what our class discussions and lectures presented. Also, it is assumed that you are familiar with the basics of composition. ENGL 1302 is a prerequisite. If you have not satisfied your general education requirements in writing, you must postpone this class until you have done so. I encourage you to meet with me for extra help or to discuss ways to enhance your learning. Please keep track of your grades. I prefer substantive discussions about the course content or your growth (strengths and weaknesses) to talk of your GPA and the generation of 'progress reports,' which is not the most efficient use of our time together.

Make-up Work, Computer Breakdown, and Other Exigencies

Successful mastery of course material requires students to complete assignments in a timely fashion. Make-up work does not serve the learning process and so will not be permitted, except for tests missed because of family emergency or severe illness.

Writing assignments should be handed in at the beginning of class on the day due; the grade of a late paper will be reduced by a 1/2-letter-grade for each day or portion of a day it is late; after one week, a grade of F will pertain, though the student should still submit a paper in order to avoid getting a zero. Should you unavoidably miss a class, be sure to convey any assignment to me: leave it in my HFA-office mailbox; use a classmate as courier; email it (sherwood_k@utpb.edu); or fax 552-3280. Make paper and back-up copies of work done on computers. Begin work in advance of deadlines, so that you have time to troubleshoot disk errors, virus alerts, printer problems, etc. I know intimately how unreliable technology can be, but you are responsible for submitting work despite the gremlins and Murphy's Law.

Cell Phones

Please silence cell phones and beepers during class time.

Further details about policies, procedures, and assignments are available in the FAQ and Calendar.