

English 3312: American Literature to 1865

Dr. Brian Yothers

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(Email is my preferred form of communication outside class)

Office Hours: MW 2:00-4:00; F 2:00-3:00

Course Description and Objectives

English 3312 is a survey of American Literature from 1865 to the present. We will be studying fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and drama from across the period, attending closely to questions of form and historical and cultural context.

Course Materials

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Eighth Edition, Volumes C, D, and E.

Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* (Norton Critical Edition)

Because careful reading is one of the goals of this course, I strongly recommend that you have a good college dictionary at your side while reading in order to look up unfamiliar terms and references. I would particularly recommend that you make use of the *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, which is available through the UTEP library web page.

For information on MLA format, grammar, punctuation, clarity, organization, and editing, I recommend the following site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Course Requirements

Reading Responses: For each day of class, you will bring a typed, double-spaced response of at least 150 words to the readings for the upcoming session. The response is due at the start of the session. Late responses will not be accepted and cannot be made up. Hand-written responses and those sent over email will likewise not be accepted. Each response should have a clear, specific title that indicates the nature of what you have to say. Please post the word count at the bottom of your response. These responses will constitute **20%** of your grade.

Exams: There will be three exams, consisting of short answer, identification, and definition questions, each of which will account for **20%** of your grade.

Paper: There will be one paper for this class, 6-8 pages (1800-2400 words), exclusive of works cited, which you will be working on throughout the semester. This paper will constitute **20%** of your grade. A more detailed description of this assignment will be provided early in the semester.

Grades

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=0-59%

Course Policies

Originality of Work: The work you do for this course must be your own. No credit will be given for any un-cited material from an outside source. If you appear to have deliberately committed plagiarism, your case will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted for any reason. You are responsible for making all arrangements necessary to ensure that your work is always completed, printed, and turned in on time.

Attendance and Participation: Prompt and full daily attendance and engaged participation are required for this class. If you are absent or late (even by a minute) or if you leave early on a particular day, you have not met the requirement for that day. Because there are a variety of reasons why you may be prevented from arriving on time on a particular day, I give some latitude: I allow up to six absences or instances of tardiness. Upon a seventh instance of either lateness or absence, you will lose five points off your final grade for each instance of absence or tardiness. The only further latitude is for absences for official university business or documented health crisis.

Email Etiquette

Email is a useful tool if you have questions for me, and emailing me is generally the easiest and most efficient way to make contact outside class. Given that this is a university setting, you should recognize that your emails are documents that represent you professionally, and therefore should rise to certain standards of professional decorum. There are some basic guidelines that you should follow, both in my class and in your other classes.

1. All emails should have a clear subject heading.
2. All emails should have a clear, courteous salutation. "Dear Dr. Yothers:" or "Dear Professor Yothers:" would be appropriate in the case of this class.
3. All emails written for professional purposes should adhere to standard grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.
4. All emails should be signed with your name (otherwise, your reader may not know who you are!)
5. Emails should be sent from your UTEP account. If you do use another account, be sure that the name on the account is appropriate for professional interactions.
6. If there are any attachments, you should explain your reason for sending them and indicate the program in which they were written. In general, your attachments should take the form of Word documents or PDFs.
7. You should consider your rhetorical context when emailing. What is the purpose of your email, and how can you most effectively accomplish that purpose? Three particularly important matters to keep in mind are brevity, clarity, and courtesy. If your email is not clear, specific, and to the point, you may not elicit the response you desire. If your email is discourteous, you diminish the professionalism of the persona you present to others. To cite just one example, some professors find emails that include calls for action "ASAP" to be discourteous or even presumptuous.

Emails that do not meet the standards of professionalism, clarity, and courtesy outlined above will be disregarded.

Schedule

Unless otherwise indicated, all works in the anthology by a given author are assigned.

August 25 M	Intro to class
August 27 W	Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
August 29 F	Emily Dickinson
September 1 M	Labor Day No Class
September 3 W	Mark Twain, <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> , pp. 130-207
September 5 F	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> , pp. 207-272
September 8 M	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> pp. 273-end; essays by Leo Marx, David L. Smith, and Toni Morrison
September 10 W	Charles W. Chesnutt, <i>The Marrow of Tradition</i> , pp. 5-101
September 12 F	<i>The Marrow of Tradition</i> , pp. 101-164
September 15 M	<i>The Marrow of Tradition</i> , pp. 164-end; essays by Brook Thomas and Eric Sundquist
September 17 W	Brett Harte; William Dean Howells
September 19 F	Henry James, "Daisy Miller"
September 22 M	Sarah Orne Jewett; Kate Chopin
September 24 W	Abraham Cahan; Emma Lazarus
September 26 F	Charlotte Perkins Gilman; Edith Wharton
September 29 M	Sui Sin Far; Zitkala Sa
October 1 W	Stephen Crane
October 3 F	James Weldon Johnson; Paul Laurence Dunbar, W.E.B. DuBois
October 6 M	Exam 1
October 8 W	Willa Cather, <i>My Antonia</i> , pp. 47-141
October 10 F	Willa Cather, <i>My Antonia</i> , pp. 141-end
October 13 M	Robert Frost
October 15 W	T. S. Eliot

October 17 F	William Carlos Williams
October 20 M	Wallace Stevens
October 22 W	Langston Hughes
October 24 F	William Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying</i> , pp. 698-751
October 27 M	William Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying</i> , pp. 751-end
October 29 W	Zora Neale Hurston
October 31 F	Ernest Hemingway
November 3 M	Richard Wright
November 5 W	Exam 2
November 7 F	Elizabeth Bishop; Allen Ginsberg
November 10 M	Tennessee Williams
November 12 W	Flannery O'Connor
November 14 F	John Updike; Philip Roth
November 17 M	Julia Alvarez; Alice Walker
November 19 W	Audre Lorde; Lucille Clifton
November 21 F	Raymond Carver; Billy Collins
November 24 M	Sandra Cisneros; Lorna Dee Cervantes; Alberto Rios
November 26 W	Sherman Alexie; Junot Diaz
November 28 F	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class
December 1 M	Jhumpa Lahiri; Li-Young Lee
December 3 W	Exam 3
December 5 F	Dead Day
December 12 10:00-12:45 F	Final Paper Due