Administrative Unit: Humanities Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 242

Course Title: American Literature II

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Survey of major American writers from Realist to Contemporary figures.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112 or instructor’s permission.

Text(s): Many good texts are available; the following are among the best:


(Shorter editions in one volume are economical, especially to students who have taken or will take ENGL 241.)

An individual volume or two; novel, play, story or poetry collection.

Course Objectives:

• To understand and appreciate American literary texts produced from roughly 1800 to present through an intensive course of readings, discussions and written exercises.
• To evaluate the full variety of American literary texts produced from roughly 1800 to present.
• To conduct a sampling of the works of dozens of writers, emphasizing some, but ranging widely over the whole period and major literary types.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Demonstrate critical understanding of “the second half” of American literature.
• Increase knowledge and comprehension of the art forms, themes and values that make up the literary part of the American cultural heritage.
• Demonstrate mastery of material by reading, discussing, writing critically about and evaluating works of poetry, drama and fiction suitable to a sophomore survey.
Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Departmental policy requires students write a minimum of 4500 words of graded writing for the class.
- Introduction to course; brief recapitulation of American literature to 1890; essential literary terms and movements named and briefly defined.
- Realism; major and minor authors; characters, themes, values, and lasting significance.
- Naturalism; major and minor authors; characters, themes, values, and lasting significance.
- Modernism; major and minor authors; characters, themes, values, and lasting significance.
- Contemporary movements; major and minor authors; characters, themes, values, and lasting significance.
- The state of American literature today.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: **30**

Library Resources: Online databases are available at [http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp](http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp). You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: ____________________________

Dr. Danny Campbell

Name ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

September 12, 2005

**NOTE:** The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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