

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-224: American Literature

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-Class Lecture

D2L will be used to post grades and may be used to deliver some assignments.

It will NOT be used for lecture slides, which will only be available during classes.

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Mr. Neil Stubbs

EMAIL: StubbsN@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Paul 220 (Lansdowne) / LACC 118A (Interurban)

HOURS: Wednesday: 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Lansdowne)

Thursday: 8:30-9:30 a.m., and 2:30-3:30 p.m. (Interurban)

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Students read and respond to literature of the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. Through class discussion and critical responses, students explore both cultural and political issues in major works of American literature. These include, but are not limited to, race, globalization, nationalism, democracy, regionalism, and independence.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in ENGL 161
- C in ENGL 163
- C in ENGL 164

CO-REQUISITE(S):

None Applicable

EQUIVALENCIES:

None Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Analyze aspects of American literature from the seventeenth century to the present.
2. Evaluate a variety of genres, which may include poetry, short fiction, novels, drama, and nonfiction, according to critical precepts appropriate to the specific genre.
3. Identify the socio-historical context of the works and relate the works to others as part of a literary continuum.
4. Identify and account for recurring themes in American literature.
5. Compare and contrast various works, authors, and styles within the context of the overall development of American literature.
6. Distinguish between the subjective and objective aspects of works in order to formulate informed judgments about the works being discussed.
7. Identify the influence of dominant critical theories of movements in the contexts of the literature studied.
8. Write their own interpretations of the works by using a variety of critical methods and resources.
9. Support their own interpretations with relevant textual evidence.
10. Document sources using current MLA conventions.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

The Broadview Anthology of American Literature Concise Volume 1: Beginnings to Reconstruction,
edited by Spires et al.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Tennessee Williams, *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*

Phillip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

A selection of short stories, poems, and essays (available as handouts and/or on-line)

Students will also be required to view *Blade Runner* in advance of the lecture and class discussion of this film in Week 14. Your instructor recommends the Final Cut (2007).

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
January 6 – January 8	Introduction/Diagnostic; Discussion: American Dream, or Nightmare?	
January 13 – January 15	“Birth of Nenabozho” & other stories; “Thanksgiving Address”; William Bradford, excerpts from <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i>	
January 20 – January 22	Anne Bradstreet, “Prologue,” “The Flesh and the Spirit”; Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>Scarlet Letter</i>	
January 27 – January 29	Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>Scarlet Letter</i>	
February 3 – February 5	Thomas Jefferson, excerpts from <i>The Autobiography</i> (“Declaration of Independence”) and <i>Notes on the State of Virginia</i> ; Phillis Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To S.M.”	Essay One Due (February 3)
February 10 – February 12	Ralph W. Emerson, “Self-Reliance”; Edgar A. Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart”; Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”	
February 17 – February 21	Family Day / Reading Break (No classes this week)	
February 24 – February 26	Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself</i>	In-Class Essay (February 26)
March 3 – March 5	Abraham Lincoln, “A House Divided”; Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself,” “I Sing the Body Electric,” “O Captain! My Captain!”	
March 10 – March 12	T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”; Ezra Pound, “The River-Merchant’s Wife: A Letter”; F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited”; Ernest Hemingway, “Soldier’s Home”	
March 17 – March 19	Tennessee Williams, <i>Eccentricities of a Nightingale</i>	
March 24 – March 26	Flannery O’Connor, “Good Country People”; Sylvia Plath, “Lady Lazarus”; Judith Ortiz Cofer, “The Changeling”	
March 31 – April 2	Philip K. Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>	
April 7 – April 9	Ridley Scott, <i>Blade Runner</i>	Research Essay Due (April 11) (AT OFFICE)
Monday, April 14- Friday, April 25	Final Exam (30%) will be held during the Exam Period (TBA). DO NOT make travel or work plans until you know the Final Exam schedule.	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>.

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Essay #1 (750 words minimum)	15%
Reading Responses (Between 5 to 10 written pieces)	10%
In-Class Essay (500 words minimum)	15%
Literary Research Essay (1200 words minimum)	25%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance / Participation	5%
	TOTAL
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

a) STATEMENT REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CHAT GPT

Consider the following statement by author and photographer B.A. Van Sise:

“Let’s stop aggrandizing it by calling it ‘artificial intelligence,’ and begin calling it what it really is: **plagiarism software**.”

There is no artificial intelligence. It’s not creating anything, just copying existing work by existing artists and changing it enough to skirt copyright laws [. . .] By allowing the companies making the plagiarism software to call it ‘artificial intelligence’ or ‘text algorithms,’ you’re giving them newspeak to hide what they’re making, and what their users are doing: **it’s just plagiarism. Nothing else.**”

Course assignments that are generated through Artificial Intelligence (such as ChatGPT and similar programs) will be treated as acts of plagiarism. Students committing this offense will be subject to the consequences outlined by Camosun College’s Academic Integrity policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf>

b) CLASSROOM DECORUM

Students and instructors at Camosun College have a right to work in an environment that is free from harassment and intimidation. Disrespectful conduct and improper behaviour will not be tolerated.

Please refrain from using any electronic devices (such as cellphones or texting devices) to send or receive text messages during class. The use of lap-top computers is only permitted to students who have provided documentation of medical circumstances and/or who have supplied a documented request for accommodation through the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL). **Any use of electronic devices (without a Letter of Accommodation) during class time will negatively affect a student's Participation Grade.**

Unpermitted use of electronic devices during an exam or in-class assignment constitutes a breach of the Student Conduct Policy and will result in a grade of 0% on the assignment.

Similarly, all discussion between individuals in the classroom should be directed towards relevant material. Students should not distract others and interrupt lectures with "table talk" (that is, conversations about personal matters that have no relevance to classroom discussion.) Students who need to sleep or to eat large meals are advised not to use the classroom for such purposes. Professional behaviour is a key expectation in this course: students who continually engage in inappropriate behaviour will be asked to leave the classroom.

c) PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Overall, it is expected that students will demonstrate a professional sense of responsibility concerning their work and their personal conduct at the college. Students are generally expected to hold themselves responsible for submitting work according to deadlines and format requirements, and for successfully completing the requirements of this course. To that end, they are also responsible for ensuring that they attend lectures and do **all** the assigned readings

Students are also responsible for keeping themselves informed about what is happening in class. The instructor is available during scheduled office hours, if you have questions or concerns regarding the course. Any e-mail messages left for him during the weekend will not be received until the next business day. E-mail may be used to inform the instructor of an upcoming absence from a class session, but the e-mail message itself **DOES NOT** constitute official documentation of the absence. **PLEASE ALLOW FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO 48 HOURS FOR THE INSTRUCTOR TO RESPOND TO AN INQUIRY VIA E-MAIL.**

Students are responsible for the grades they receive during this course. Grades are determined by the work that each student submits, and by each student's performance in the course. It is not considered professional for a student to inform an instructor of the grade that he or she "needs" or "expects" from any course. The instructor is willing to work with individual students to improve their writing skills, if such requests for assistance are made well in advance of an assignment's due date. However, instructors can make no guarantee that students will get the grades that they want. **Please be advised that grades are NOT negotiable.**

Students are also responsible for taking notes in class. This skill is a necessity in the post-secondary classroom, and business professionals greatly value any employee who is able to listen carefully and to record information accurately. For this reason (and since much classroom discussion is generated spontaneously), **the instructor refrains from publishing lecture notes or from making them available as photocopies or as electronically-posted slides.** Students who are absent from a class should make their own arrangements to receive the missing material from a trusted colleague. **Please avoid asking the instructor for copies of his notes or slides.**

d) ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

Paper copies of assignments must be handed in to the instructor AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on due date.

(Please do not ask the instructor to print a copy of your work for you.) Any work that is handed in **AFTER THE START OF CLASS** on the due date will be considered late. Without an acceptable excuse (such as documented medical circumstances), late assignments will receive a **5% deduction per day, including weekends**. This policy is meant to allow for an orderly flow of assignments and to respect those students who submit their work on schedule. Please note that the instructor takes no responsibility for work that is slipped under his office door.

With the exception of the arrangements mentioned above (that is, documented medical circumstances), late work will **NOT** be accepted after marked assignments have been returned to the class. Please note also that quizzes and in-class work may **NOT** be “made up” at a later time.

Students must also submit ELECTRONIC COPIES of the major assignments via the D2L Dropbox before class on the due date for each respective assignment. Paper copies that are submitted without an accompanying electronic copy will **NOT** be marked.

NOTE: Electronic copies that are sent **WITHOUT AN ACCOMPANYING PAPER COPY** will NOT BE ACCEPTED as submitted assignments, unless the instructor has given permission to the student.

Students may expect a marking period of **10-15 business days** before marked work is returned. Please DO NOT request that work be returned before the instructor has finished marking.

e) ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

Take-home assignments must be submitted as word-processed documents in **MS Word format**. Assignments must be **type-written** and **double-spaced**, using a **12-point** font. (Times New Roman is recommended for clarity and legibility.) All assignments submitted to the instructor should be bound together with a staple attached to the upper-left corner. Please do not ask the instructor to staple or print off your work for you.

Hand-written work is **ONLY** acceptable for in-class assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Each page of a major written assignment must be formatted according to the following specifications: 12-point font; 1 inch margins at the top, bottom, and right-hand side of the page; 1.5 inch margin on the left. Each page will require a page number in the top right-hand corner. If this format is followed correctly, each page should contain 250-300 words.

Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure are essential elements of clear communication. Students are encouraged to proof-read their work for errors, and to avoid submitting work that appears shoddy, careless, or unprofessional (such as the result of a “last-minute” effort).

Students are advised to retain a copy of their work until after the original assignment has been graded and returned. The instructor will not accept responsibility for work that is lost or goes missing. Students should also retain all assignments until after they receive their final marks.

f) IN-CLASS WRITING

Under normal circumstances, students who cannot pass the cumulative in-class assignments will not pass the course. “Cumulative” here means multiple in-class assignments throughout the semester. Students who are concerned about this course requirement are encouraged to seek guidance and clarification from the instructor as early as possible.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

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Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit

<https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.