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# AMERICAN LITERATURE: ENGLISH 2326

## SPRING 2023

### COURSE SYLLABUS

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**Instructor:** Katherine (Kaytee) Jackson (she/her/hers)

**Sections:** English 2326.601

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**Office:** Downtown Center, #2027

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment: <https://calendly.com/katherine-jackson-1/office-hours-appointment?month=2022-01>

#### Course Description

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This course is a study of selected significant works of American literature, and may include study of movements, schools, or periods.

*Prerequisite:* ENGL 1302

*Course Purpose:* English 2326 introduces students to some of the great works of American literature, from the Colonial Period through the present, which helped to shape modern literature, language, and culture. This course includes the general historical background, as well as the principles of literary criticism appropriate to the literature.

#### Core Objectives addressed:

- *Communications skills*—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- *Critical thinking skills*—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- *Social Responsibility*—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- *Personal Responsibility*—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Understand the distinguishing elements of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama for the appropriate time period
2. Understand the major elements of literature that are highlighted by the instructor
3. Be able to discuss the distinguishing characteristics of American literary movements: Native Oral, Colonial, Revolutionary, Independence, Pre- and Post-Civil War, Late 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modern, and Post Modern literature and analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
4. Show an understanding and competent application of the elements of the writing process in all writing situations as developed in English 1301 and 1302
5. Show an understanding and refinement of the skills of expository and argumentative writing already developed in English 1301 and 1302

6. Apply critical thinking to the study of literature and to the writing of analytical essays
7. Use a library and relevant internet sources for research purposes
8. Research and write an accurately documented paper, using MLA style or other assigned documentation style
9. Participate in class discussions and group work over the literature in the course
10. Make constructive suggestions for others' work during peer critiques or presentations

### **Textbook & Supply Requirements**

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All texts and reading material for the course will be provided at no cost via open educational resources (OER) and PDFs via Blackboard with the exception of our assigned novel. You will need to purchase any edition of this text for the course. SPC bookstore adoption information below.

- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Harper Collins 75<sup>th</sup> Ann. Edition  
ISBN:9780061120060

### **Required Software & Materials**

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You will need access to a laptop or computer for this course to complete your writing activities and class assignments. Laptops will be available during class for your use; however, these cannot be taken home. If you need a personal device to use outside of class, you can request to borrow a Chromebook from the SPC Library. For more information, see:

<https://library.southplainscollege.edu/c.php?g=1021659&p=7400614>

In addition, the City of Lubbock Public Library System will allow you to check out various technology (WiFi hotspot, laptop, or tablet) with a free library card for Lubbock residents. For more information, see: <https://ci.lubbock.tx.us/departments/library/services>

You are required to have access to the following technologies:

- Blackboard
- Microsoft Word
- Device with Audio and Video recording capabilities
- High-speed internet connection

For digital project creation, a subscription to Canva is recommended, but not required. (Summer Courses note: If you sign-up for Canva Pro, you are given a 30-day free trial before your card will be charged, and this will allow you to use the Pro version for free for the entirety of the course. I highly recommend this option!)

Additional tools for digital media creation will be provided in the course, and all projects can be completed with various free or trial versions of these tools. No additional software purchases are necessary.

### **Communication**

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The best way to contact me is via email at [kejackson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:kejackson@southplainscollege.edu). I will respond to emails as quickly as possible during regular business hours (M-F, 8-5). In the evenings and on the weekends, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. As I make every effort to be current and

prompt with my email, I ask that you do the same. **You should check your official SPC email at least once per day.** I will send all course communications and important messages through SPC email. To protect your privacy as a student, I ask that all emails originate from your official SPC email address. I cannot guarantee that emails from a third-party account (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) will be read or responded to.

## **Attendance**

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This is an online, asynchronous course. There is no face-to-face component for the course. Your “attendance” is measured in course participation, including regularly accessing the course and completing assignments. Failure to participate in the course for a week or more may result in a drop from the course. You’re encouraged to log in to Blackboard at least once every 48 hours.

## **Grading Policy**

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Grades will be evaluated as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (59 and below).

Final grades are calculated as follows:

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|-----------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Quizzes</b>                    | 15% |
| <b>Literature Annotations</b>     | 15% |
| <b>Weekly Packback Discussion</b> | 10% |
| <b>Movie Poster Project</b>       | 10% |
| <b>Infographic Project</b>        | 10% |
| <b>Video Project</b>              | 15% |
| <b>Podcast Project</b>            | 10% |
| <b>Media Connections Paper</b>    | 15% |

## **General Guidelines for Major Projects**

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### *Written Assignments*

Major papers should meet the guidelines of the assignment prompt and be properly formatted in MLA 9<sup>th</sup> edition. You are responsible for understanding and following MLA format and asking questions when needed. Here’s a quick overview: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>

All major written assignments should be submitted as Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx). File formats for multimedia are provided in the assignment guidelines for each one. Incorrectly submitted files, blank files, corrupted files, or submissions marked as “in progress” are counted late until properly submitted. Make sure you receive confirmation and a readable preview through Blackboard after submission.

### *Multimedia Projects*

You will complete various multimedia projects over the semester including a Movie Poster, Infographic, Podcast, and Video. Some of these assignments may also have an accompanying written component. No special skills or equipment beyond a computer will be required to complete these projects, and you will be provided with all necessary tools and technology at no cost.

### *Late Assignment Policy for Major Projects:*

All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m., with a grace period until 8 a.m. the following day before the late penalty goes into effect. Late projects receive a 10% deduction per day up to one week, and projects are not accepted more than a week after the deadline. **Note that this policy only applies to major**

**projects. Late work is not accepted for any reason on quizzes, activities, exams, or discussions.**

You are responsible for reading and understanding all grading feedback. You are welcome to ask questions about your grading feedback; however, I ask that you wait at least 24 hours after an assignment has been returned to do so.

### **Quizzes**

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After completing the assigned reading each week, you will take a comprehension quiz. These are made of 4-8 short answer essay questions that you will answer in at least 150-250 words. The quizzes are timed and you will typically be allowed 20 minutes per question; however, you will be permitted to save and return to the quiz until the deadline passes or your allotted time runs out. Quizzes are always due on Sunday at 11:59 PM.

You are allowed to access the readings and course material during the quiz as needed, but I strongly advise that you stay off Google or any other websites outside the course. Even with the best of intentions to use the internet responsibly, you are putting yourself at a very high risk of accidental plagiarism by consulting the internet. Any academic dishonesty on a quiz will result in a zero for the quiz grade and will be subject to the academic integrity policy.

### **Perusall (Literature Annotations)**

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You will complete your reading of our most major texts in the course through the Literature Annotations assignments, which are completed in Perusall. Perusall is a social annotation platform where you will complete a multi-step assignment that may include videos, reading, and other media and provide annotations in small groups with your peers as part of our ongoing literary discussion. These graded assignments are scored on the quality of annotations and overall engagement, including some or all of the criteria below:

- Contributing thoughtful questions and comments to the class discussion, spread throughout the entire reading
- Starting the reading early
- Breaking the reading into chunks (instead of trying to do it all at once)
- Reading all the way to the end of the assigned reading
- Posing thoughtful questions and comments that elicit responses from classmates
- Answering questions from others
- Upvoting thoughtful questions and helpful answers

Reading and thinking critically about literature is the foundation of this course, and these assignments are the most important part of your coursework to start with each week. You are strongly encouraged to start these early and complete them over several days in order to be successful and get the best outcomes in your learning.

If you would like to download or print your own copy to have outside of Perusall, you will be provided with access to a OneDrive folder that contains PDFs of all major literature.

### **Packback**

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As part of our weekly discussion about the literature and concepts in the course, you will utilize Packback Questions. You will post an original and open-ended curiosity question of your choosing

(due Thursday) and respond to at least two peers by Sunday each week. Additional participation is welcome and encouraged, and excellence in the weekly discussion may earn extra credit.

Packback utilizes an algorithm and AI-assisted coaching to score your posts based on their depth, development, and insight. Your post will be given a Curiosity Score based on these features. Posts are scored as follows:

- Original Curiosity Question (40 points): Posted by Thursday at 11:59 PM with a minimum Curiosity Score of 75
- Two Responses to Peers (30 points each): Posted by Sunday at 11:59 PM with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65.

Posts that do not meet the guidelines of productive discussion may be moderated by the Packback team or the instructor. An email will be sent if your post is moderated with directions to edit and republish (if applicable). If your post contains plagiarism or evidence of AI assistance, it may be subject to removal and a zero for the week. You are welcome to edit eligible posts to increase your Curiosity Score or address any moderated content until the deadline. Specific guidelines and expectations for Packback are available on Blackboard.

#### *How to Register on Packback:*

Note: Only access Packback through Blackboard in order to ensure your grades sync properly

- Click “Packback Weekly Discussions” within Blackboard in the Course Content menu to access the community.
- Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.
- In order for your grade to be visible in Blackboard, make sure to only access Packback via Blackboard.

#### *How to Get Help from the Packback Team:*

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at [help.packback.co](http://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co).

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68>

### **Blackboard**

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We will also use Blackboard in this course. You may access the Blackboard login page at [southplainscollege.blackboard.com](http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com). Do not—under any circumstances—give your username and/or password to anyone else or allow anyone else to log in to your Blackboard account. Doing so will be viewed as academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.

If you need technical support for Blackboard, please contact the Instructional Technology Department at [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu). Include your name, student ID, the name of the course you’re taking, a description of the problem you are having.

Like all other areas of this course, there are no exceptions to the late work policy, for any reason, including technical difficulties.

## **Student Code of Conduct**

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Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Extra credit is available for students who carefully and thoroughly read the syllabus. In order to receive these extra points, email me a photo or link to a photo of your favorite animal and a fun fact about them. These points are for students who are still reading this document carefully at this point—do not disclose this opportunity to other students. They must find it on their own.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

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It is the aim of the faculty at South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense. Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

### **Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate all or part of a paper or other assignment;
- Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site;
- Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
- Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
- Missing in-text citations.

### **Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
- Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
- Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, texting, internet, Quizlet, etc.) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
- Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
- Taking an examination for another;
- Altering grade records;
- Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
- Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
- Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will automatically result in a 0 for the assignment and can, in many cases, result in getting dropped from the course with an F. Assignments that earn a zero for plagiarism cannot be made-up under any circumstances and will be reported to South Plains College.**

### *Artificial Intelligence Statement & Procedure*

I have an ethical responsibility to ensure that all students receive credit for only work that they have originally and ethically produced. Any evidence of AI through detection ratings or faculty review will be subject to further investigation. It is your responsibility as a student to demonstrate that your work is original in order to avoid penalties or plagiarism violations. I encourage all students to keep a comprehensive draft history and track changes in Microsoft Word as a precaution. This is the easiest way to prove authorship and protect your academic integrity in the age of AI. In many cases, work containing evidence of AI assistance will require a Zoom conference for an interview and proctored writing sample. These conferences will be recorded and reviewed by at least one other faculty member, and a determination will be made as to whether there is satisfactory evidence of authorship to earn credit.

### **SPC Tutors**

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Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

### **Tutor.com**

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You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with tutor.com each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, click on the tutor.com link on the left-hand tool bar and grab a session with a tutor. You can access tutor.com tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

### **Disclaimer**

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Because we will use Blackboard to conduct a portion of this class, please note that the materials you may be accessing in chat rooms, bulletin boards, or unofficial web pages are not officially sponsored by South Plains College. The United States Constitution rights of free speech apply to all members of our community regardless of the medium used. We disclaim all liability for data, information or opinions expressed in these forums.

### **Health and Wellness**

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Any student needing individual counseling for issues such as depression, anxiety, adjustment to college, stress management, and substance abuse may visit the Health and Wellness Center to chat, confidentially, with licensed mental health professionals who provide services free of charge to current SPC students. Call or visit on Levelland Campus 806-716-2529 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Students wanting to set up a counseling session will have an option to be seen face-to-face or teleconference session via Doxy.me or Zoom platform. Both students and Health and Wellness employees will wear a mask during face-to-face appointments. The number of people in an office will be limited to allow for safe social distancing. Signs are posted on the front door advising

students not enter if they are showing signs of illness. Students will be escorted to an appropriate office to ensure social distancing is maintained. Any student in need of food or other essentials may visit the food pantry on Levelland Campus. Students can contact Dee Dee Odorizzi (806-716-2236) for more information.

### **Diversity Statement**

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In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

### **Disabilities Statement**

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Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

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South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

### **Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement**

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If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email [dburleson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dburleson@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.