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Fall 2015

ENGL 2041

D. Rutledge
University of New Orleans

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Recommended Citation

Rutledge, D., "ENGL 2041" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 428.
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Major American Writers
English 2041
Fall 2015
Dr. Rutledge
MWF 9:00-9:50
LA 210

Office Hours: LA 195
MWF 10:00-11:00
MW 1:00-2:00
WF 7:30-8:00
& by appointment:
drutledg@uno.edu

Course Description: This is a survey course in American literature; in this course we will move from about 1600 to the present day in sixteen weeks. We will look at many of the major periods and trends in American literary history. One of our goals will be to place each writer in an appropriate historical setting. Also, while we will be working with some broad historical strokes, we will work to understand what is unique about each author's writing – style, themes, philosophies, and so on. This course will be part history, part theology, part aesthetic appreciation, and more, depending on which approach is most relevant to a given author.

Please be aware that this is not a lecture course. Your participation in class discussion will be essential to making our class time productive

Texts: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Shorter Eighth Edition
Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*

Some of our readings will be posted on Moodle. You will need to print each of these and have them in class. Our tests – including the final – will be open-book; therefore, you will want to have a hard copy of each reading.

Grades and Assignments:

First, attendance and participation are both mandatory and will count for 10% of the final grade. One key to success in this class will be keeping up with the readings and with the material presented in class. Be here, be on time, and be prepared.

There is no difference between an “excused” or an “unexcused” absence. I will not be verifying doctor’s notes. If you miss more than four classes, you should drop the class. Each absence after the fourth will result in a 10% reduction in the final grade.

Second, there will be many quizzes. These will be to see that everyone is keeping up with the readings and the material presented in class. Quizzes will total 15% of the final grade. Thus, the daily in-class activity (attendance and quizzes) will count for 25% of the final grade.

Third, there will be one project/paper and one final paper. These will count for 15% each. We will discuss these papers in more detail, including the due dates, when they are officially assigned. I will hand out the first assignment on the second day of class.

There will be no late papers accepted. Computer problems are not sufficient cause for turning in a late paper. Show me work in progress to get some feedback and to avoid a failing grade caused by a failing printer.

A zero on either paper will result in a failing grade in the class.

Plagiarism will result in a zero for that paper (see previous sentence). If you plagiarize, you will fail the course and may be suspended from the university. When using the words or ideas of *any* source (books, best friends, internet, your mom) cite that source. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism, ask me before turning in your paper.

Finally, there will be two in-class essay tests worth 15% each during the semester, plus a final exam. The final exam will cover the entire semester and will count for 15% of the final grade.

Final Grade:	Attendance and Participation:	10%
	Quizzes:	15%
	Two tests:	15% each
	Paper/Project:	15%
	Final Paper:	15%
	Final Exam:	15%

You may ask me at any time during the semester how you are doing.

On the reading list below, if no page numbers or titles are given for an author, that means we will cover the entire section in *Norton*. Otherwise, you are only responsible for the pages assigned. Also, you should read the introductory material for each author.

Some dates and assignments may change; you will be responsible for keeping up with those changes and with class material even in the case of an absence.

August 19 – Introduction

Aug. 21 – John Smith, “What Happened till the First Supply”

Aug. 24 – William Bradford, Book I, Ch. IX; Book II, Ch. XI, XIX & XXIII

Aug. 26 – “ “

Aug. 28 – “ “

Aug. 31 – Ben Franklin, pgs.

September 2 – “ “

Sept. 4 – Thomas Jefferson, pgs.

Sept. 9 – Edgar Allan Poe, “The Raven”

Sept. 11 – Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart”

Sept. 14 – Frederick Douglass, fr. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself* – pgs. 931, 944-950 (Chs. VI & VII), 956-964

Sept. 16 – Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

Sept. 18 – Test #1

Sept. 21 – Walt Whitman, from “Song of Myself”: sections 1-3; 5-7; 11; 24; 39; 41-43; 48-52

Sept. 23 – Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer,” “The Dalliance of the Eagles” – check Moodle

Sept. 25 – Whitman, “Cavalry Crossing a Ford,” “Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night,” “The Wound-Dresser,” “As I Lay with My Head in Your Lap Camerado” – check Moodle

Sept. 28 – Emily Dickinson – no reading due & Essay #1 Due

Sept. 30 – Dickinson – no reading due

October 2 – Ambrose Bierce, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”

Oct. 5 – Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”

Oct. 7 – Chopin, “Desirée’s Baby”

Oct. 9 – Chopin, “At the ’Cadian Ball” & “The Storm”

Oct. 12 – Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants” – on Moodle

Oct. 14 – Hemingway, “Cat in the Rain” – on Moodle

Oct. 19 – e.e. cummings

Oct. 21 – William Carlos Williams

Oct. 23 – Test #2

Oct. 26 – Claude Mckay

Oct. 28 – Zora Neale Hurston, “How It Feels to Be Colored Me”

Oct. 30 – Langston Hughes

November 2 – Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Nov. 3 – “ “

Nov. 5 – “ “

Nov. 9 – Allen Ginsburg, “Howl”

Nov. 11 – “ “

Nov. 13 – “ “

Nov. 16 – Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*

Nov. 18 – “ “

Nov. 20 – “ “

Nov. 23 – James Baldwin, “Going to Meet the Man” & Second Paper Due

Nov. 25 – “ “

Nov. 30 – Joyce Carol Oates, “Thanksgiving” – on Moodle

December 2 – Oates, “Poor Bibi” – on Moodle

Dec. 4 – Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9, 7:30-9:30

Student Learning Outcomes: by the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- > understand a broad range of American literary history
- > display the skills needed to analyze literature
- > discuss and write clearly and intelligently about literary issues

** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.*

*** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.*