

Syllabus for English 18 (DE): American Literature II

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College of the Redwoods, Del Norte

*"In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through,
but rather how many can get through to you."*

-- Mortimer Adler

Note: This is a Distance Education Class and is conducted entirely online.

Semester & Year:	Spring 2017
Course ID /Section:	ENGL-18-V1364
Credits/Units:	3
Contact Information:	E-mail: Ruth-Rhodes@redwoods.edu Office: E7, Del Norte Campus Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30 (and by appointment); Phone: 707-465-2336
Technical Support:	If you are experiencing technical difficulties, submit a ticket to Tech Support http://support.redwoods.edu/ . For help with issues relating to Canvas , our course learning system, please ask for help with our Tech Support Team and visit http://support.redwoods.edu/ or call 707-467-4160.
Student Services :	College of the Redwoods http://www.redwoods.edu/ has a variety of student services available to you, even if you're taking classes entirely online. Check out the CR webpage and look under "Admissions and Financial Aid" for links to services like Financial Aid, Counseling, Child Care, and others.

Course Description: What is this course about?

English 18 is a survey of American literature from the Civil War through the present. Students will read critically and analytically to understand ideas and historical and cultural implications of major works of American literature.

Course Learning Outcomes: What will I learn to do?

In this course, you will learn to *think like a critical reader and writer*. By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

1. Generate interpretive arguments about literature that adhere to the conventions of literary analysis and academic discourse.
2. Apply knowledge of historical, intellectual, and/or cultural contexts in interpreting the significance of literary texts.

Special accommodations: What If I have a disability?

College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. This class is designed to meet the needs to those with disabilities.

Please contact me if you have a DSPTS accommodation request so that I can make arrangements to meet your needs. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services, such as extra time to complete weekly assignments, contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services at the Del Norte Campus Center (707) 465-2324 or on the Eureka Campus (707) 476-4280, or on the web at <http://www.redwoods.edu/dsps>

Academic Misconduct: What are the expectations for student integrity?

Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an “F” in the course. The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: <http://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf>. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.

College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

Course Requirements and Expected Commitment

- Approximately 8 hours of dedicated time per week over a 16 week period
- The ability to navigate course websites, open and download files, use a word processor with Microsoft Word or be able to convert files to rich text format or portable document format and submit files to the class website.
- Access the books listed below, making sure you get the editions listed so our translations and page numbers will be the same. Many are available free from your local library or at a very low cost from a used bookstore.

Numerous studies (and student experiences) suggest that we read more critically and carefully when we use paper editions versus digital editions. I recommend buying print versions rather than trying to read digital editions unless you have a disability that makes digital preferable.

1. *Little Women* (Unabridged). Afterward by Susan Straight. L. M. Alcott. Signet Classic / Mass Market Paperback. ISBN#: 978-0-451-52930-5
2. *The Jungle* (Unabridged) Upton Sinclair. Penguin Classic Edition. ISBN#: 0486419231.
3. *A Farewell to Arms*. Ernest Hemingway. Vintage Books. ISBN#: 0099273977
4. *Death of a Salesman*. Arthur Miller. Penguin Plays. ISBN#: 0140481346.
5. *Beloved*. Toni Morrison. Knopf. ISBN#: 1400033411

I will also introduce a variety of additional short readings, including literary criticism, as the semester progresses.

Should I Listen to Audio Books? Should I Watch the Film Versions?

I highly recommend listening to books on tape *as a supplement* to reading them in print. Make sure your audio book is not abridged or you will miss significant passages of the text. Follow along as you read with your hardcopy.

Film versions can be inspiring, but watch them in order to compare and contrast them with your reading experiences. Most film versions are significantly different from the original stories.

Course Participation is expected on a regular basis. Students must log in and complete the weekly work to be able to continue on to the next week. The English Department requires regular “attendance” (defined here as submitting work for the week); in addition to being penalized for submitting late work, if students miss more than two weeks of work before the 11th week of classes, they can be dropped from the course.

If you need to drop or withdraw from the course for whatever reason, be mindful of the drop deadline listed on the schedule.

Grading Criteria

Grading Scale:

A (100-90%) / B (89-80%) / C (79-70%) / D (69-60%) / F (59-0%)

Grading Categories:

Quizzes, Discussion Posts, Peer Review (40% of total grade)
Critical Essays (60% of total course grade)

Modules

Each week constitutes a module, and the pattern is fairly regular:

1. Attend the mini-lecture (usually about 20 minutes long)
2. Complete the assigned reading (usually about 100 pages)
3. Take the quiz. You must get 100% on the quiz to continue to the next step, but you can retake the quiz if you need to.
4. Enter the discussion forum, read the posts of others, and leave your own posts (usually 2-3 required each week with options to choose from).

To receive full credit for discussion posts (1 point for each bullet):

- o Answer the question fully and carefully
- o Minimum 300 words
- o Support your answer with textual evidence (include plenty of short quotes or paraphrases with MLA style in-text page references)
- o Acknowledge what some others in forum have said and describe how your comments connect with or diverge from their ideas (unless your post is first)
- o Use a polite, formal style that conforms to standard written English rules for grammar, spelling, and mechanics

I'll be providing comments on the discussion posts to guide you, so please read my comments on your posts as well as my comments on others.

Critical Essay Assignments

Twice during the course (Weeks 7 & 8 and Weeks 15 & 16), we will break our typical module pattern and work on 1000 word+ critical essays. Each must be formatted in MLA style and submitted to Turnitin.com as part of Canvas. We will likely do a peer review activity each time, where you will be required to submit a rough draft for peer review and to provide helpful feedback for your classmates. This assignment will be graded.

I will provide support on how to write and format the papers. Your comments in the discussion forum will be relevant and useful in your papers.

Late Work: What's the Policy?

Quizzes, discussion posts, and rough drafts of critical papers will be due by midnight on Sundays (or as assigned). Late assignments will lose 30% of their point value if not completed on time. You will have up to a week to submit late work; assignments more than a week late will not be accepted and cannot be made up. Late peer reviews will not be accepted.

Expectations of the Instructor: What will my instructor do?

I will post weekly work assignments on the Friday before the week begins (and earlier, if possible, because I know some of you like to work ahead). I will access the course Monday through Friday and reply to your posted questions and e-mails no later than 48 hours after you send them.

I teach face-to-face classes in the mornings, 4-days a week and often have meetings on Fridays. I tend to take weekends off from accessing e-mail, so if you send me an e-mail Friday afternoon, I probably won't get to it until Monday afternoon. I WILL get back to you, though. Responding to your questions and concerns is very important to me.

I will participate and monitor discussion forums, read and comment on your ideas, and make extensive notes on your essays to help you grow as writers, readers, and thinkers. I will be part coach, part cheerleader, and part referee as we navigate our way through a small selection of that vast realm of text we identify as "American Literature."

Schedule, English 18 (DE) Spring 2017

Note: "Weeks" begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday for our purposes.

Part 1: Little Women

Week One (January 17-22):

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week One
- Read *Little Women*, 1-101 (Chapters 1-10)
- Pass the quiz with 100%
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Week Two (January 23-29)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Two
- Read *Little Women*, 102-217 (Chapters 11-23)
- Pass the quiz with 100%
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Week Three (January 30-February 5)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Three
- Read *Little Women*, 221-354 (Chapters 24-37)
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Week Four (February 6-12)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Four
- Read *Little Women*, 355-456 (Chapters 38-47)
- Read Mary Jo Salter's "Louisa May Alcott's American Girls"
http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/15/books/review/louisa-may-alcotts-american-girls.html?_r=0

- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Please note: I will be at a conference February 9-13 and difficult to reach. I can return your messages by Tuesday, February 7.

Part 2: The Jungle

Week Five (February 13-19)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Five
- Read *The Jungle*, 1-140 (Chapters 1-12)
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Week Six (February 20-26)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Six
- Read *The Jungle*, 141-388 (Chapters 13-31)
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Please note: February 20 is a holiday and I will not be in the office. I can return your messages by Tuesday, February 21.

Part 3: Critical Essay 1

Week Seven (February 27-March 5):

- Watch the mini-lecture “Writing about Literature: Preparing for Critical Essay 1”
- Read the briefing on Critical Essay 1
- Post an essay proposal to the discussion board and comment on the proposals of others

Week Eight (March 6-12)

- Submit your rough draft of Critical Essay 1 for peer review (by Wednesday)
- Comment on the rough draft of one of your peers (by Thursday)
- Revise, edit, and submit your final draft of Critical Essay 1

Spring Break March 13-19 (No modules)

Part 4: A Farewell to Arms

Week Nine (March 20-26)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Nine
- Read *A Farewell to Arms*, Chapters 1-23 (Books 1-2)
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- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Week Ten (March 27-April 2):

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Ten
- Read *A Farewell to Arms*, Chapters 24-41 (Books 3-4)
- Take the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Week Eleven (April 3-9)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Eleven
- Read “Recalcitrant Simplicity: Thin Characters and Thick Narration in *A Farewell to Arms*” by Alexander Hollenberg (online)
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Part 5: *Death of a Salesman*

Week Twelve (April 10-16)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Twelve
- Read *Death of a Salesman*
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Part 6: *Beloved*

Week Thirteen (April 17-23)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Thirteen
- Read *Beloved*, 1-165 (Part 1)
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Please note: I will take 2 personal days on April 17 and 18. I can return your messages by Wednesday, April 19.

Week Fourteen (April 24-30)

- Watch the mini-lecture for Week Fourteen
- Read *Beloved*, 169-275 (Parts 2-2)
- Pass the quiz
- Read and contribute to the discussion board

Part 7: Critical Essay 2

Week Fifteen (May 1-7)

- Watch the mini-lecture “Writing Critical Essay 2”
- Read the briefing on Critical Essay 2
- Post an essay proposal to the discussion board and comment on the proposals of others

Week Sixteen (May 8-10*)

- Revise, edit, and submit your final draft of Critical Essay 2 (By Wednesday, May 10)
- Comment in the Highs, Lows, Thanks forum