



# Syllabus

## AML 2020: American Literature: Reconstruction to Present

AML 2020 / 85290/ Fall 2026

3 Credit Hours/ 3 Contact Hours

Pre-requisites: ENC 1102 with a minimum grade of C.

### Contact Information

#### Instructor

Name: Jaclyn Drapeau  
Title: Assistant Professor  
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Office Location: LL 26  
Office Hours (Days & Times):  
Mon.—11 AM-12 PM; 2-3 PM  
Tues.—11 AM-12 PM; 1:30-3:30 PM  
Weds.—11 AM-12 PM; 2-3 PM  
Thurs.—11 AM-2 PM  
Response Time: 48 hours

### Language and Literature

#### Division Chair

Betty McKinnie  
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### Course Information

#### Catalog Description:

Prerequisite: ENC1102 with a minimum grade of "C." (Meets Literature Humanities requirement). Major writers, literary movements, forms, and themes of American literature from the Civil War to the present. Readings will include selections from the Western canon. This is a course for which students will produce extensive college-level writing and which requires completion with a minimum grade of "C."

## Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Define and apply key literary terms and concepts
2. Interpret texts through social, cultural, and historical lenses
3. Analyze stylistic, thematic, and conceptual connections across texts and a variety of genres
4. Demonstrate objective knowledge of and compose subjective responses to assigned readings

## Course Materials & Resources:

All texts (readings) will be provided for students in Canvas for free.

Students will be required to bring a 4x6 note card to class each day to complete in-class writing.

Students are expected to have adequate proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word and have access to the college's LMS system (Canvas). The course will make use of Canvas, a course management program that allows students to turn in work and take quizzes online, keep track of grades, and communicate easily with the professor and other students in the class. Students must turn in all essays and project writing in on Canvas.

## Delivery Method:

This course meets face to face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

## Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.

- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, necessary reminders, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

## Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Description
August 17-21	1	<p><b>Week 1—Romanticism/American Renaissance Unit; Whitman</b></p> <p>Tuesday (8/18) HW: Walt Whitman—            “I Sing the Body Electric”            “The Wound Dresser”            “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer”</p> <p>Thursday (8/20) HW: Emily Dickinson—            “I taste a liquor never brewed”            “Some keep the Sabbath by Going to Church”            “After a great pain, a formal feeling comes”            “Success is counted sweetest”</p>
August 24-28	2	<p><b>Week 2 —Dickinson; Realism Unit</b></p> <p>Tuesday (8/25) HW: Mark Twain—            From <i>The Damned Human Race</i></p> <p>Thursday (8/27) HW: Jack London—            “What Life Means to Me”            “To Build a Fire”</p>
August 31-September 4	3	<p><b>Week 3 —London and Crane</b></p> <p>Tuesday (9/1) HW:</p>

		Stephen Crane— “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky” Thursday (9/3) HW: Hamlin Garland— “The Return of a Private”
<b>September 7-11</b>	4	<b>Week 4 —Garland, Dunbar, and Chopin</b> Tuesday (9/8) HW: Paul Laurence Dunbar— “Sympathy” Kate Chopin— “Desiree’s Baby”  Thursday (9/10) HW: W.E.B. DuBois— “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” Frederick Douglass— “What the Black Man Wants”
<b>September 14-18</b>	5	<b>Week 5 —DuBois, Douglass, and Gilman</b> Tuesday (9/15) HW: Charlotte Perkins Gilman— “The Yellow Wallpaper”  Thursday (9/17) HW: Sarah Orne Jewett— “The Town Poor”
<b>September 21-25</b>	6	<b>Week 6—Jewett and Cather</b> Tuesday (9/22) HW: Willa Cather— “A Wagner Matinee” “Paul’s Case”  Thursday 9/24 HW: Sui Sin Far (Edith Maude Eaton)— “In the Land of the Free”
<b>September 28-October 2</b>	7	<b>Week 7—Far; Midterm Review</b> Tuesday (9/29): No HW  Thursday (10/1) HW: Study for Midterm Exam
<b>October 5-9</b>	8	<b>Week 8—Midpoint; Modernism Unit</b> Tuesday (10/6): No HW In-class readings: William Carlos Williams— “The Red Wheelbarrow” “Complete Destruction”  Thursday (10/8): Fall Break—No Class
<b>October 12-16</b>	9	<b>Week 9—Modernist Poets</b> Tuesday (10/13) HW: Sherwood Anderson— “Hands” Wallace Stevens— “The Snow Man” e.e. cummings—”i sing of Olaf glad and big”  Thursday (10/15) HW: T.S. Eliot— “The Wasteland”
<b>October 19-23</b>	10	<b>Week 10—Eliot and Hemingway</b> Tuesday (10/20) HW: Ernest Hemingway—

		<p>"Mr. and Mrs. Eliot"  "Indian Camp"</p> <p>Thursday (10/22) HW: F. Scott Fitzgerald— "The Ice Palace"</p>
<b>October 26-30</b>	11	<p><b>Week 11—Fitzgerald, Hughes, and Hurston</b></p> <p>Tuesday (10/27) HW:  Langston Hughes—  "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"  "The Weary Blues"  Zora Neale Hurston— "Sweat"</p> <p>Thursday (10/29) HW:  Flannery O'Connor— "Good Country People"</p>
<b>November 2-6</b>	12	<p><b>Week 12 —O'Connor and Faulkner</b></p> <p>Tuesday (11/3) HW: Willam Faulkner— "Barn Burning"</p> <p>Thursday (11/5) HW:  Jack Kerouac— "The Vanishing American Hobo"</p>
<b>November 9-13</b>	13	<p><b>Week 13— Contemporary Period Unit; Kerouac and Alexie</b></p> <p>Tuesday (11/10) HW:  Sherman Alexie— "Because My Father Always Said He Was the Only Indian Who Saw Jimi Hendrix Play 'The Star-Spangled Banner' at Woodstock"</p> <p>Thursday (11/12) HW: Ursula K. Le Guinn—  "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"  "The Wife's Story"</p>
<b>November 16-20</b>	14	<p><b>Week 14—Le Guinn and Wallace</b></p> <p>Tuesday (11/17) HW: David Foster Wallace—  "This is Water"  "Incarnations of Burned Children"</p> <p>Thursday (11/19): No HW</p>
<b>November 23-27</b>	15	<p><b>Week 15—Exit Interview, Final Exam Prep; Thanksgiving Break</b></p> <p>Tuesday (11/24): Exit Interview Prep</p> <p>Thursday (11/26): Thanksgiving Break—No Class</p>
<b>November 30-December 4</b>	16	<p><b>Week 16—Exit Interviews</b></p> <p>Tuesday (12/1): Exit Interview Prep</p> <p>Thursday (12/3): Study for Final Exam</p>
<b>December 7-11</b>	Final Exams	<b>TBD</b>

## Grading

### GCSC Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

### Calculation of Grades

Short Assignments (In-Class Writings, Quizzes, Other Assignments): 20%

Major Assignments (Essay, Exit Interview, Exit Interview Writings): 35%

Exams: 40%

Participation: 5%

### Incomplete Grades

An “Incomplete” (“I”) will be considered by the instructor if a student has completed seventy-five percent of the class. This will be determined based on attendance, participation, and/or assignment completion. The instructor may require that the student submit a schedule for completion of the missing work. The “Incomplete” provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an “F”.

## Course Policies

### Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

## Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

### Attendance and Participation

Students are to attend each class of the semester. Discussion is a vital component of courses involving the reading of literary texts; *all* students are expected to participate in group and class wide discussions. Students can anticipate in-class writing prompts based on homework reading. These writing responses are graded for completion and content. As the name suggests, you must be in class to receive credit.

While physical attendance is important, just because a student is physically present in a classroom does not mean that the student is contributing meaningfully to the learning community. Participation considers a student's contribution to the learning community rather than just their existing in or taking from the learning community.

So, participation, rather than mere attendance, will be essential in this course. Participation is measured in ways such as arriving punctually for class, how often and how well a student communicates ideas to the class and group, how they carry their fair share of group work. Also included in this consideration is respect and attention. These things can be reflected by note taking (highly encouraged!), avoiding phone usage and unrelated computer usage during class, etc. If a phone is out during class or if the student is using a laptop for reasons other than viewing the reading, the student will receive a zero for participation for that day. If a student leaves class early without my prior consent, that student will receive a zero for participation for that day. Note that you cannot get credit for participation if you do not come to class.

Each class, I will be recording every student's participation, and I will provide grades to students via a rubric at a few points throughout the semester. Participation is 5% of your overall course grade, and getting full credit should not be difficult if you take your work seriously and participate in class

All the previous being said, I understand that there are times when we just should not or cannot come to class. These might be days of illness, mental health care, or other such circumstances. I will be "excusing" every student for up to three (3) missed class periods. This means that a student can miss 3 class periods/in-class writing assignments in the semester—no questions asked. When absences become excessive or extended (have exceeded the 3 free absences), official documentation will be required to make up any missed in-class writing.

#### Late Work Policy

Your assignments will have clearly defined submission days and times. An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted by the pre-defined time in Canvas or in class. In Canvas, assignments will lock after the specified deadline. Once an assignment locks, I do not accept late short writing assignments (homework assignments, quizzes and in-class writing prompts), unless arrangements are made before the due date or in the case of an extenuating circumstance. It will be important to pay attention to deadlines.

For a major assignment (essay/exit interview writings): If you choose to submit a major assignment late, you will receive a 10-point deduction every day that it is late. If a student misses an exam, the exam will not be able to be made up.

Please know that I have every intention of operating with reasonable flexibility. If you have a problem completing your work for any reason this semester (accessing the internet, family issues, physical health concerns, mental health concerns, etc.), I hope that you would feel comfortable talking to me before the assignment is due. I am more than willing to work with you if a struggle appears, but if I don't know that you're having a problem, I cannot help you. Rarely am I not understanding when someone alerts me to issues before an assignment is due.

#### Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal

deadline will be recorded as a grade of “W.” The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of “W.” The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

## Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college’s mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student’s records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism"

includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism"

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

## Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

Prohibited Use of AI

*The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.*

Further Notes on AI

1. Using AI-generated content in your writing is considered plagiarism and is strictly prohibited in this class. This includes using Grammarly or other tools to enhance language. I want to see *your* writing and what makes it uniquely yours.
2. Any assignment found to use an AI text generator will receive a zero. **Students will not be given the opportunity to revise or resubmit such assignments.**

3. If a student submits multiple assignments that have been found to use AI text generation, the student will automatically receive an F in the course.
4. If I suspect that a student is using AI text generation, the student may be required to submit a proctored writing sample in my office or at the college testing center.

Additionally, any instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to our college's academic integrity policies.

I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about this policy or about academic integrity in general. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in maintaining the high standards of academic integrity in our class.

### Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

### Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

### Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

### Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.