

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL-202

American Literature II

3 Credits

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

American Literature II studies literature written in the United States of America from the mid-nineteenth century to recent times. Works are chosen to represent diverse ethnic, racial and social groups in historical, political and economic contexts for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character. Representative works include Realist and Naturalist literature, immigrant and Native American experience, classic work from WWI and WWII eras, and feminist expression, among others. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize literary terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation of texts.
3. Write analytically about literary works, using appropriate research and documentation.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical, and cultural contexts.
5. Evaluate the power of literature to address personal values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Describe the major characteristics of literary realism and naturalism.
7. Synthesize the historical, political, social, and scientific influences on American Literature in the 19th and 20th centuries.
8. Evaluate the individual works of major American poets and fiction writers of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Major Topics

- I. The Civil War to the First World War
- II. The Modernist Revolution: Between the World Wars (1914-1945)
- III. The Age of Uncertainty: After the Second World War (1945-Present) Contemporary Fiction

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include exams, papers and class participation. Specific writing assignments will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing, as well as informal in-class assignments to explore ideas and respond to class materials.

Other Course Information

This course is a Literature and Humanities core course and a Humanities, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.