

AML 3124 - American Fiction: 1900 to World War II Course Syllabus

Instructor: Michael Mayne

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Credits: 3

Course Deadline: 16 weeks from each student' enrollment date

Required Textbooks

1. Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (Boston: Bedford, 1994)
2. John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer* (Boston: Mariner Books, 2003)
3. Nella Larsen, *Quicksand* and *Passing* (New Brunswick: New Jersey, 2002)
4. William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying: The Corrected Text* (New York: Modern Library, 2000)
5. John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2006)
6. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (New York: Perennial Classics, 1998)
8. Julian Wolfreys, Ruth Robbins, and Kenneth Womack, *Key Concepts in Literary Theory* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006)

Recommended Textbooks

1. Diana Hacker, *Writing About Literature* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007)
2. Diana Hacker, *Rules for Writers* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008)

Course Description and Objectives

AML 3124 challenges students to analyze literature, write critical arguments, and gain knowledge of American literature and culture. This course builds on the study and practice of writing in lower-level literature and composition courses. American novels written in the first half of the twentieth century are the primary sources for AML 3124. Students will learn about many different literary styles, forms, and hermeneutics, but the primary mode of inquiry here will be historicist. While the focus will be on writing polished and persuasive arguments about texts, students will also be encouraged to situate their readings within our social groups, the communities we live in, and the United States itself. Critical thinking techniques and successful writing habits learned in this class will provide essential skills for success in college and careers.

After completing this course student will be able to:

- Discuss the plots and characters of important American novels published between 1900 and World War II
- Incorporate fiction, history, and theoretical concepts into formal academic essays
- Synthesize disparate materials into coherent narratives
- Write persuasive and knowledgeable arguments about literary texts
- Obtain familiarity with American history and culture between 1900 and World War II

Course Outline

MODULE 1: Textual Analysis

Lesson 1: Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*: Lily Bart in Context

Lesson 2: Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*: Ideology and Agency

Lesson 3: John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*: Literary Panorama

Lesson 4: John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*: Literary Symphony

MODULE 2: Cultural Studies

Lesson 5: Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* and *Passing*: Old Dilemmas and New Perspectives

Lesson 6: Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* and *Passing*: Individuals and Communities

Lesson 7: William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*: Regionalism

Lesson 8: William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*: Narrative Valences

MODULE 3: Historical Context

Lesson 9: John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*: The Great Depression

Lesson 10: John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*: American Subcultures

Lesson 11: Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*: Florida in Context

Lesson 12: Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*: Narratives of Agency

MODULE 4: Synthesis

Lesson 13: The Final Essay

Assignments Submissions

All assignments must be uploaded to the lesson Assignment page as an attachment. "AML3124: Lesson X Assignment" should be in the subject line where "X" is the lesson number. Assignments should be submitted as attached documents saved in rich *text format (.rtf)*, *Microsoft document format (.doc or .docx)*, or *OpenOffice document format (.odt)*.

If you do not have Microsoft Office or other software capable of saving documents in one of the file formats identified above, you can download the OpenOffice software suite free of charge at [here](#). OpenOffice is an open-source designed office productivity suite that has comparable components to Microsoft Office. Please reference OpenOffice's comprehensive help files for instructions in its effective use.

Grading Criteria

There are three types of assignments in this course: short answers, short essays, and one long essay. These assignments are worth a total of 100 percent of your final grade. There are two types of assignments: short-answer assignments and essays. The short answer assignments are worth 5 points each and the essays are worth ten points each. These assignments together are worth a total of 100 points.

The course letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

- A = 95-100%
- A- = 90-94%
- B+ = 87-89%
- B = 84-86%
- B- = 80-83%
- C+ = 77-79%
- C = 74-76%
- C- = 70-73%
- D+ = 67-69%
- D = 64-66%
- D- = 60-63%
- E = 59% and below

The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Grades are not given out over the phone.

Grading Standards

Below is the meaning behind the grades assigned to your papers, with "A" work being the standard for the other grades. You should use these statements to determine how you might work toward a higher grade.

A

The essay's argument, substance, organization, and style are accomplished at an exemplary level of quality. Work in this range shows all the qualities listed below for a "B," and it also demonstrates that extra steps were taken in developing content, solving a problem, and remaining stylistically consistent. An "A" paper selects excellent evidence to support the claim, provides a sophisticated and precise argument, and presents a professional, engaging attitude toward the subject and the audience. Careful editing and proofreading are essential in good writing, and papers with more than a couple mechanical or format errors rarely receive an "A."

B

The essay accomplished what the assignment asked for at a high level of quality. The argument asserts and sustains a claim that develops progressively from start to finish and offers a distinct position on the subject. Work in this range incorporates lessons learned from readings, lectures, and class discussion. "B" work is complete in content, logically organized, and shows attention to style.

C

The essay accomplished the assignment's requirements. Work in this range needs significant revision, but it is generally complete in content. The style may be inconsistent and the argument somewhat illogical.

D

The essay did not accomplish the assignment's requirements. It may also be confusing and filled with mechanical errors.

Online Student Conduct

Students are expected to abide by the University of Florida's code of student conduct, including the rules applicable to online courses and student conduct in general.

Academic Honesty

Students enrolled in Flexible Learning courses through the University of Florida are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity. You are responsible for providing proper acknowledgement for any work that is not the product of your own thought; this includes published and unpublished texts and information taken from Internet sources. Failure to properly cite such material will be regarded as plagiarism.

Plagiarism:

A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Source: Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.041. For more information, please go to this link: [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: Scope and Violations](#)

For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

- Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
- Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an 'E'." Source: [Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.047](#).

Disability Accommodations:

The [Disability Resource Center](#) in the [Dean of Students Office](#) provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. Staff at the Disability Resource Center will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation of a disability is required to determine eligibility for appropriate accommodations. The professional employees at the Disability Resource Program serve as full-time advocates for students with disabilities ensuring students have physical and programmatic access to all college programs. One of the services provided by the Disability Resource Center includes Testing Accommodations:

- Please click on this link for further information: [DRC-Testing Accommodations](#)
- Here is the link to register with the DRC: [DRC-How to GetStarted](#)

The Flexible Learning office needs to be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.

Course Deadline and Extension Policy:

Students are allowed *16 weeks, from their date of enrollment*, to complete and submit their coursework. If the student has not submitted at least 50% of their coursework and have an extenuating circumstance preventing them from submitting the coursework, a failing grade of "E", "E0" or "E1" will be issued and recorded to the UF Registrar.

If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing and submitting at least 50% of the coursework and have an extenuating circumstance, the student may petition the

instructor for a course extension before the course expires. Each course extension request will be administratively evaluated. Instructors are not required to allow extensions. If a student does receive an extension, an incomplete grade of an "I" will be assigned as an interim grade. When the course is completed, the instructor will initiate the change of grade. After that, the "I" grade will be changed to the student's final course grade on their transcript.

Course Cancels and Course Drops:

A Course Cancel:

A tuition refund may be granted after a student submits a written request within 30 days of enrollment to the Flexible Learning Office. This request must be in writing by learn@dce.ufl.edu or sent by fax, 352-392-6950. Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less \$25.00 per course. If a credit card was used, the refund will be credited a back to the card. **No refunds are granted after 30 days.**

Course Drop:

Dropping a course: To drop a course, you need to email the Flexible Learning office at learn@dce.ufl.edu with a request to drop within 14 weeks of the date of enrollment. In addition to their own request by email, *UF* students must have advisor approval to drop a flexible learning course. An advisor can email learn@dce.ufl.edu with the student's name, the course that they want to drop, and confirmation of permission to do so. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all drop requests have been received by the Flexible Learning office within the allotted time. The course grade will appear as "W" on a UF transcript.

Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are permitted to petition for additional drops. Find more information by contacting the [Disability Resource Center](#).

Full Term Withdrawals:

All full-term withdrawals must follow University of Florida policies/ procedures. An approved withdrawal form must be submitted to the [Dean of Student's Office](#) for review and final approval. Students must also notify the Flexible Learning of this request by learn@dce.ufl.edu.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify Flexible Learning of their approved medical or retroactive withdrawal so the students' record is updated. [Email](#) to our office a copy of the approval.

Medical Withdrawals:

[Here is the link to start the Medical Withdrawal Process:](#)

Retroactive Withdrawals:

[Here is the link for retroactive withdrawal information:](#)

UF Official Transcripts:

Flexible Learning *advises* that you review your "unofficial transcript" first to ensure your grade(s) is/are posted, prior to ordering the "official transcript".

Two ways to order a transcript:

1. [Order UF Official Transcripts here](#)
2. If you are unable to order your official transcript online, please contact the [UF Office of the University Registrar](#). In addition on more information on mailing in a transcript request form by remitting a check or money order. [Official Transcripts FAQs](#).
3. The Registrar's Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and their phone number is 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

UF Flexible Learning Contact Information:

Email: learn@dce.ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 392-1711
Toll free: (800) 327-4218
Fax: (352) 392-6950
Website: [UF Flexible Learning](#)

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, except Holidays
8:00am-5:00pm EST