

AML 3124 - American Fiction: 1900 to World War II

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Michael Mayne

Email: Please use the E-Learning **Mail** tool.

Credits: 3

Course Deadline: 16 weeks from each student's enrollment date

COURSE TEXTS

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)
7. Richard Wright, *Native Son* (New York: HarperCollins, 2005)
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

American Fiction: 1900 to World War II explores American novels written during the first half of the twentieth century. We will be reading fiction by a range of writers (see course text list above). The texts chosen for this course are classics but are not necessarily representative of American fiction from 1900 to World War Two. No such a representation exists, aside from the totality of American publishing. This course does not profess to offer a survey of great works or a selection of American archetypes in narrative form; rather, this course offers a collection of great works oriented around themes that suggest different ways of thinking about American society.

Between 1900 and World War Two American society experienced profound transitions marked by profound contradictions: the nation became an empire in the midst of surging xenophobia, some citizens struggled to oppress others struggling for liberation, we entered a world war to prevent its second, the country's economy collapsed and reemerged as the world's strongest, and cultural works like the novel simultaneously reflected and critiqued the times that produced them. Much of our own society has been crafted by the consequences of those transitions and the primary inquires of our exploration will consider how these consequences are addressed in American novels written during those tumultuous times.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Main goal of course:

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 larger communities we live in, and the United States itself.

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: 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, 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: The Synthesis

Lesson 13: Richard Wright's *Native Son*: Social Critique

Lesson 14: Richard Wright's *Native Son*: Spheres of Discourse

Lesson 15: The Final Essay

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have and regularly check a valid email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email accounts at least twice per week or more often depending on progress in the course.

By signing up for an online course, students certify that they have reliable access to a computer and the internet. In order to take these courses, students need to have a web browser, a word processing program, a program for reading Acrobat documents, and other programs for example Windows or real Media to view/hear multimedia content.

If a student does not already have these programs, many options are available including these free options:

- **Multi-platform Web Browser:** Mozilla Firefox, <http://www.mozilla.org/>
- **Word Processing:** OpenOffice, <http://www.openoffice.org>
- **Acrobat Reader:** Adobe Acrobat, <http://www.adobe.com>

ASSIGNMENT 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)*.

NOTE: 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 <http://www.openoffice.org/product/>. 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

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

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. Their percent distribution is as follows:

- short answers are worth 4 percent each,
- the short essays are worth 8 percent each,
- the long essay is worth 16 percent of your final grade.

Course Grading Scale:

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

A	90-100%
A-	87-89%
B+	84-86%
B	80-83%
B-	77-79%

C+	74-76%
C	70-73%
C-	67-69%
D+	64-66%
D	60-63%
D-	57-59%
E	56% 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

Here is the meaning behind the grades I assign to your papers (you should use these statements to determine how you might work toward a higher grade):

Grading written assignments will always be a subjective experience. However, there are qualities in academic writing that make some examples better than others. For this course, your assignments will be graded on a scale from "A" to "E." General distinguishing characteristics of letter grades are described below, with "A" work being the standard for the other grades.

- A** You did what the assignment asked for at a high level of quality. "A" papers demonstrate structural and creative excellence. Work in this range shows all the qualities listed below for a "B," but it also demonstrates that you took extra steps in developing content, solving a problem, and remaining stylistically consistent. Since careful editing and proofreading are essential in writing, papers with more than two errors rarely receive an "A."
- B** You did what the assignment asked of you at a high quality level. Work in this range is complete in content, logically organized, and shows attention to style.
- C** You did what the assignment asked of you. Work in this range needs significant revision, but it is generally complete in content. The style may be inconsistent and somewhat illogical.
- D** I am confused.
- E** I am annoyed.

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:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. 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:

- (a) Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
- (b) 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 Get Started](#)

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:

Each student's online course expires **16 weeks from the date of enrollment**. Although there is flexibility in completing the coursework, the course should be started as soon as the course materials are received since the 16 week period has already begun. The coursework should be submitted as it is completed. All **final** coursework needs to be completed and submitted for grading at least **2 weeks** prior to the course expiration date. Any "due dates" that may be in E-Learning in Sakai do **not** apply to the student's course expiration date.

Each student is allowed 16 weeks to complete a course. If the time is about to expire, the student will be assigned a failing grade ("E"). If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing at least 50% of the course, the student may petition the instructor for a course extension. After you have contacted your instructor for an extension, each extension request will be administratively evaluated.

Dropping or Withdrawing From a Course:

A tuition refund may be granted after a student submits a written request for withdrawal from a course within 30 days of enrollment. This request must be in writing and may be sent by fax or email. All requests will receive written responses. Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less \$25.00 per course. If a credit card was used to pay for tuition, the refund will be in the form of credit to that card. A refund can be issued on course materials at the time of withdrawal if they are returned within 30 days of sale and are in their original condition. Allow 6 – 8 weeks for refund checks. Please call our office (1-800-327-4218) for up to date refund policies. **No refunds are granted after 30 days.** Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are allowed to petition for additional drops. For more information, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#).

Attention UF Students:

- **To drop a course:** In order to drop a UF Flexible Learning course, UF students must have an Academic Advisor or Department Chair email the UF Flexible Learning office at learn@dce.ufl.edu stating that the student is approved to drop the course. Please use this link for more information: [UF Drop Policies](#)
UF Students wishing to drop a UF Flexible Learning course after drop/add should contact their college advising office to see if they have a free drop remaining. If they have a free drop remaining, they have 14 weeks from the date of enrollment to drop the course, subject to applicable rules of their college and the university. This action is subject to verification that a grade has not yet been assigned.
- 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 UF Flexible Learning office of this request.
Please use this link for more information: [UF Withdrawal Policies](#)

Medical Withdrawals:

Here is the link to start the Medical Withdrawal Process:

[Dean of Students Office Medical Withdrawal Process](#)

Retroactive Withdrawals:

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

Transfers:

You may transfer from one course to another within 30 days of enrollment. This request must be in writing and sent by fax or e-mail. You will receive a receipt by mail. Any difference in tuition will be collected or refunded. There is a \$50.00 transfer fee. After the transfer has taken place, the original enrollment and expiration dates still apply. The approval and signature of a dean or academic advisor is required for UF students.

Book Buy-Back Policy:

Textbooks and materials, except for ones that use an access code, that are in continued use by UF Flexible Learning and are in good condition may be repurchased at 50% of the original purchase price 30 days from completion of or withdrawal from a course. Contact UF Flexible Learning for more details at 1-800-327-4218.

How to Request a UF Transcript:

There are two ways to order a transcript:

1. The online ordering system by going to this link: [Ordering UF Transcripts](#)
2. If you cannot use the online system, please contact the UF Office of the University Registrar for instructions to mail in a request with a check or money order. They can be contacted by phone Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Please check your “unofficial transcript” first, before ordering your “official transcript”, to make certain that your grade has been posted.

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
8:00am-5:00pm EST