RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

English 202
Dr. Rick Tomlinson

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COURSE TITLE: ENGL. 202 – American Literature in the 20th Century

Course Credits: 3-0-3

PREREQUISITE: Completion of ENGL. 101, 124, 126, 128, 140, or 150

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
English 202, American Literature in the 20th Century is an historical survey of American literature from 1900 to the present. Authors whose works will be included, in addition to Fitzgerald and Taulbert, will be Chopin, Gilman, Crane, London, Black Elk, Frost, Stevens, Eliot, Crane, Wright, Williams, Cheever, O’Connor, Momaday, Pynchon, Roethke, Berryman, Lowell, Brooks, Snyder, Dove, Rios, and others. The course aims to provide exposure to diverse issues confronting the fields of American thought, literary scholarship, and literary criticism.

TYPICAL TEXTS:
• Nina Baym et al, eds., The Norton Anthology of American Literature.
• F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby.
• Clifton L. Taulbert, Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. To become familiar with a survey of the work of a number of American authors, working from the beginnings of the twentieth century to the present;

2. To familiarize, broadly at least, with a number of the central historical events that shaped the thinking and the literature of America during the last century;

3. To gain a fundamental understanding of a number of primary modes of literary criticism;

4. To develop an introductory comprehension of critical methods; finally,

5. To be able to write successfully of historical and literary matters through the essay, a midterm examination, a final examination, and to participate aggressively in class;
GRADING and ATTENDANCE POLICIES:
Diction, logic, mechanics, organization, and sophistication of thinking will be considered when evaluating your work. Following the college policy as outlined on page 57 of the RCC Catalog: “Regular attendance is necessary for satisfactory college work. Richland faculty will take roll daily, at least through the midterm of the semester. If a student is absent for one week plus one day (or less, if specified by the instructor in the course outline), his/her name may be sent to the Student Records Office. Students with unsatisfactory attendance will be sent a “stopped attending” letter. At midterm, the College will administratively drop students who have failed to meet the attendance standard as certified by the instructor. This procedure is in accordance with Illinois Community College Board policy. See Dropping a Course, RCC Catalog page 56.”

Based on the policy articulated above, you will be graded on attendance and participation. You will be expected to attend all of every class period. Class discussion and writing workshops cannot be duplicated or “made up.” Absences affect your grade, as you will have missed highly important discussions and explanations. If you miss class more than 3 times or are excessively late (3 times = one absence), you will lose one letter grade. For every absence after that, you will lose ½ letter grade. You must call me about any absence within 24 hours of that absence. However, this will not necessarily assure that the absence will not count against you. You are responsible for all missed information on any day that you are absent (lecture information, assignments, etc.).

Your grade for participation will depend upon your involvement as a group member and the timeliness of your submission of assignments. No work may be skipped; all assignments must be completed in the appropriate order, including outstanding drafts and revisions. I require that you type or computer-print all assignments.

Consider yourself to be a member of this class, which means that you not only have privileges and receive benefits, but you also have responsibilities — both to yourself and to your fellow class members. If you should decide to drop the course, however, you, alone, are responsible for completing the appropriate notification with the Students Records Office. If you do not, an “F” will be the result. Grades will be averaged as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay # 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay # 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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The grading scale for English 202 is as follows:
- 90%+ = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 59% and below = F
OPEN LAB:
Although significant class time will be devoted to the actual writing and revision of your essays, you will also need to spend additional hours outside of class writing. Much work can be done at home in the inventing and planning stages, and additional hours on the computer are available in the Open Lab in C239.

INSTRUCTOR ABSENCE: If I should somehow be delayed, which is highly unlikely, for more than twenty minutes after the scheduled starting time of the class, you may consider that class to be cancelled.

HUMAN RELATIONS: This course incorporates concepts regarding all races, creeds, sexes, and ethnic groupings and the belief that they must learn to live together.

STUDENT SUCCESS: If at any time I believe that a student is at risk of being unsuccessful in the course, I may notify the Student Success Office. This office will, in turn, contact you suggesting assistance options. I anticipate that you will need to spend at least 3 hours of study outside of class for every hour of in-class work.

RCC ACADEMIC SUPPORT:
Learning Resource Center   Ext. 296
Perkins Support           Ext. 202
Student Services Center   Ext. 267
Student Learning Center   Ext. 419
Student Support Services  Ext. 440
Learning Accommodation Services Ext. 379

SPECIAL NEEDS:
Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify your instructors during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for particular courses. Prompt notification is necessary to ensure that requested accommodations are available when needed. All accommodations must be approved, in advance, through the Accommodations Services Coordinator in C130, at 362

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:
Instructional methods may include lecture, discussion, peer evaluation, and group work.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
The response to student cheating or plagiarism will follow the college policy as outlined on page 45, which states: “Each student is expected to be honest in his/her class work or in the submission of information to the College. Richland regards dishonest in classroom and laboratories, on assignments and examinations, and the submission of false and misleading information to the College as a serious offense. A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or furnishes false, misleading information to the College is subject to disciplinary action up to and including failure of a class or suspension/expulsion from the College.” No credit will be given for plagiarized classroom assignments and tests;
Division chairperson will be notified; incidents deemed by the instructor to be of a serious nature may result in dropping the student from the course.

**RCC CORE VALUES:**
Commitment, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, and Diversity

**IAI INFORMATION:**
The IAI designation for English 202 is H3915. This course is part of the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). Consequently, successful completion of English 202 (with a grade of C or better) will ensure transferability of the course, and the course will count toward an associate or bachelor degree program at any other participating school in the college or university in the State of Illinois.

**CALENDAR**
*All dates and assignments are subject to change:* you are responsible for keeping up with changes. Additional readings and exercises will be assigned as needed (for students individually or to the class as a whole).

**(WK. # 1)**  
**Introduction to Course.**  
*View, Reforming Education.**  
**Read Norton:** Chopin, “Cadian Ball” and “The Storm.”

**(WK. # 2)**  
**Read Gilman, “The Yellow Wall-Paper.”**  
Group explication and presentation

**(WK. # 3)**  
**Read Crane, “The Open Boat” & “The Blue Hotel.”**  
Group explication and presentation

**(WK. # 4)**  
**Read London, “To Build a Fire.”**  
Group explication and presentation  
Begin own reading of Taulbert, *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored.*

**(WK. # 5)**  
**Read Black Elk & Neihardt, “Black Elk Speaks.”**  
Group explication and presentation  
**Essay #1 due.**

**(WK. # 6)**  
**Read Frost:** “Mending Wall,” “The Road Not Taken,” “Out, Out—,” “Nothing Gold Can Stay,” “Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening,” and “Design”; also read Stevens, “Disillusionment of Ten O’ Clock,” “Sunday Morning,” “The Idea of Order at Key West,” “The Emperor of Ice Cream,” and “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird.”  
Group explication and presentation
Read Eliot, “…Prufrock,” “The Wasteland,” The Hollow Men,” and “FOUR QUARTETS”
Group explication and presentation

Read Crane, The Bridge.
Group explication and presentation
Midterm Examination.

Read Wright, selections from Native Son.
Group explication and presentation

Read Falling: Barthes, “The Death of the Author,”
Rabinowitz, “Actual Reader and Authorial Reader,”
and Dasenbrock, “Do We Write the Text We Read?”
Group explication and presentation

Group explication and presentation

Read Falling: Gilbert and Gubar, “The Female Swerve” and Spivak, “Imperialism and Sexual Difference.”
Group explication and presentation
Essay #2 due.

Group explication and presentation

Group explication and presentation

Read Handbook: “Phenomenological Criticism (The Criticism of Consciousness).” Apply to Huckleberry Finn through class discussions and presentations.
Group explication and presentation

Read Falling: Levine, “Reclaiming the Aesthetic” and Bérubé, “Aesthetics and the Literal Imagination.”
Group explication and presentation and preparation for final exam.

Final Examination.