

Department of English & Writing Studies

**English 2401E (650)**  
**American Literature Survey**  
Summer 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Clarissa Suranyi  
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**Delivery method:** Online asynchronous

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your

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Reading and working with these specific editions is preferred, especially for essays. If you already have some or all of the texts in different editions, then inform me what edition you will be using in your essays. The Western

Methods of Evaluation

Study Question	5% (500 words)	<b>See Assignments folder on OWL for due dates</b>
Essay 1	10% (1000 words)	<b>Due May 19</b>
Essay 2	15% (1000 words)	<b>Due June 9</b>
Annotated Bibliography	10% (500 words)	<b>Due July 7</b>
Essay 3 (research paper)	25% (2000 words)	<b>Due July 21</b>
Final Exam	35%	<b>Scheduled by Registrar during final exam period</b>

**Note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available from the Office of the Registrar.**

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

**Western University Land Acknowledgment:** Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant

**Assignments:**

Assignments must be submitted online through OWL. Go to the Assignments tab and click on

Always be **specific**. Do not assume that your reader will “get” what you are alluding to (think of a theoretical reader who may be familiar with the topic or the text in question, but needs specific information in order to engage fully with your argument). Quoting briefly from the primary text—the novel or short story, for instance—is always a good idea to give your reader a definite context for what you are saying.

Take time to **plan and outline**. Before writing the first words of your essay, spend time planning and outlining it. Gather your evidence and look for patterns, similarities, and differences. Remind yourself what it is that you want to discuss and prove, then think about the best way to organize your essay accordingly. What is your argument or position? What evidence will you need to support your thesis? What is the most effective way to structure the essay—what argument should come first and what is your most important evidence? Essentially, when you sit down to write, you should have a firm idea of what you want to do in your essay and how the parts will fit together. Good planning and outlining will save you tension and frustration.

Write about **what interests and excites you**. When considering a topic, think of what you liked most in the texts on the course—issues, ideas, themes, passages, and so forth. What would you like to explore further? What would you find interesting to write about for six or eight pages? If you enjoy what you are writing about, your essay will show it.

Finally, **reread and edit**. Before submitting your paper, reread it and revise it as necessary, looking for everything from typos to potentially unclear sentences to improper essay format. Having someone else look at a draft is always a good idea, particularly if you trust that person to be honest and helpful. The value of a “clean” essay to a reader cannot be underestimated, for it shows that you care about your writing, which in turn encourages the reader to care about what you are writing.

If you are not familiar with the basic technical vocabulary of English literary studies, you may want to consult a handbook of literary terms. M. H. Abrams *A Glossary of Literary Terms* offers an excellent source book for literary terms. For an overview of recent literary and critical theory, consult *The John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*.

**Late Penalty and Extensions:**

Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends, unless the student has received an extension. Students must ask for extensions well in advance of the due date and

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work:**

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

See <https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/> for more details.

**Absences from Final Examinations:**

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons.

**Religious Accommodation:**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at:

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).



### Timetable

**Note:** Except for *The Scarlet Letter*, *Invisible Man*, and *Beloved*, all readings are in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature* (shorter 10th ed). Because the anthology is frequently revised, readings may change (for example, the selection of poems by Emily Dickinson).

## **PART I – CONTACT AND COLONIAL LITERATURE**

**WEEK 1:** Iroquois creation story; John Smith, “A Description of New England”; John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity”; Roger Williams, “The Bloody Tenet of Persecution” (available: <http://www.reformedreader.org/rbb/williams/btp.htm>); William Bradford, Book I and II, “Of Plymouth Plantation”; Anne Bradstreet, “To My Dear and Loving Husband,” “Contemplations,” and “The Flesh and the Spirit” (“The Flesh and the Spirit” is available here: <https://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/content/flesh-and-spirit>).

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William Carlos Williams: “The Red Wheelbarrow,” “Portrait of a Lady,” “Spring and All,” and “To Elsie”

Wallace Stevens: “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird,” “Anecdote of the Jar,” “The Snow Man,” “The Emperor of Ice Cream,” and “Sunday Morning”

Start Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

**WEEK 9:** Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

#### **PART IV — CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE**

**WEEK 10:** Sylvia Plath (“Daddy” and “Lady Lazarus”); Allen Ginsberg, “Howl”; Gwendolyn Brooks, “The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till”; Maxine Hong Kingston, “No Name Woman” (from *The Woman Warrior*); start Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

**WEEK 11:** Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

**WEEK 12:** finish *Beloved*; Leslie Marmon Silko, “Lullaby”; ;