



TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Mrs. Maggio's ENGL2328: American Literature II Syllabus

Spring II 2025

Course Meeting Time/ Place: 2IS: Online/ Independent Study

Professor Information:

Name: Amanda Ritter-Maggio

Office: Stilwell Humanities 212 and virtually (via Microsoft Teams by appointment only)

Office Telephone: 903-823-3227--this is a landline phone, and I can't access it if I'm not on campus. If you call and I don't answer, leave a voicemail or send an email.

E-mail: amanda.rittermaggio@texarkanacollege.edu

Email is the best and fastest way to contact me. PLEASE do not message me through Moodle/ TCOonline or Teams, because I do not check those platforms frequently and will not see your message. When sending email, please include your first and last name and indicate which class you are enrolled in. You are welcome to email me any time; however, please note that I do not answer emails between the hours of 7:30 pm and 7:30 am. I typically respond to all emails within 24 hours.

Office Hours: MW 11:00-2:00; TR 9:30-1:30, Fridays and other times by appointment

Please be aware that this course is presented in a hybrid, 8-week compressed format. A hybrid course, as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is a "a distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations." You are required to spend time each week interacting with course material on Moodle/ TCOonline (this may include but is not limited to watching lecture videos or other informational videos related to coursework and completing online assignments).

Because of the nature of a hybrid course and the compressed course format, in-person attendance is required and is extremely important for this course. This course does NOT meet on Teams.

Course Description

A survey of American literature from the Civil War to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character. **Prerequisite:** satisfactory completion of ENGL1301 and ENGL1302.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to ...

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature

What to Expect for This Class

In this course, you will learn about important American authors and works of literature. We will begin our study in the time period after the Civil War and continue studying works published through the present day.

You will need to read everything that is assigned (sometimes more than once), be prepared to discuss what you have read, and keep careful notes. Be prepared to take quizzes, complete discussions, take exams, and write essays about the literary and historical concepts we cover in our course readings.

This course is worth three credit hours. This means that if this class were face-to-face and presented in a sixteen-week semester, we would spend three clock hours each week in class together, and that for each hour that we would spend in class, you would expect to spend two to three hours completing homework and preparing for the next class meeting (a total time commitment of at least nine to twelve clock hours per week, per class). This is why twelve credit hours is referred to as a “full-time class load”--you would spend twelve hours in class each week, plus twenty-four to thirty-six hours working on homework each week (the equivalent to a full-time job). Since this class is presented in a compressed, 8-week format, expect to spend a total of 18-24 clock hours per week in class or working on assignments for this class.

In order to be successful in this course, you must read everything that is assigned. Watch all assigned videos. “Due dates” are NOT “do dates.” Work ahead. Check your TC email at least two to three times per week. Use your assignment calendar to keep up with all assignments (do not rely on Moodle to prompt you when an assignment is due). Get help from me and/or a tutor if you need it.

I take my role and responsibility as your professor very seriously. I have carefully planned and built this course to meet all of the class objectives and to give you the experience you need to be successful in future courses and in your professional life. I promise I would never waste your time or ask you to do tasks that are not relevant to the course or the learning material. I have created a clear and organized Moodle course that includes plenty of resources and materials that you can use to be successful. I have also built a course calendar with due dates for all assignments. Our class will run with a predictable routine and firm deadlines that you will know well ahead of time. I promise to respond quickly to your questions and concerns.

This class will be challenging, but you are not alone! I am here to help you be successful. Please talk with me if you are struggling or need assistance. TC also has a wealth of resources available to students, from tutoring to computer labs to counseling. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. Please take advantage of these resources.

About the Required Reading

In this course, you will read a range of works of literature by different authors from different time periods and perspectives. Generations of college students have read and studied many of these same works. Some of the works we read will contain adult language and situations. We will also read a few works that contain racial slurs, descriptions of violence, and outdated attitudes (including racist, sexist, homophobic, or xenophobic views). Reading these works does not mean that I as the instructor or you as the student endorse or agree with those views. It is not my intent to offend, shame, denigrate anyone by studying these works. Rather, reading literature allows us the opportunity to acknowledge, confront, question, and examine the authors’ purpose in including these situations in their works. One of the wonderful things about studying literature is that it affords us the opportunity to put ourselves in others’ shoes, learn about the historical and social context of the works, and foster empathy and respect. This class is a space in which we can have honest conversations about humanity, human nature, and the power of language.

You may find some of the reading to be challenging or difficult. This is normal. Please do not get discouraged, or worse yet, immediately rush to Google and start reading articles about the works you read. This will only serve to further confuse you or make you doubt your own interpretations of the works. Some students do find it helpful to listen to the readings as they follow along. You can find recordings of nearly all of our reading assignments on YouTube.

I have tried very hard to select readings that I think you will enjoy; however, you will probably not like everything we read. This is also normal. You are welcome to discuss your reactions to the readings in class.

Required Books and Materials

Textbook: *Writing the Nation: A Concise Introduction to American Literature, 1865 to Present* (available online with no cost: <https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/english-textbooks/5/>)

- **Materials:**
- **Computer and internet access** to complete coursework in Moodle/ TCOOnline (laptop or desktop computer required – not all course components are compatible with smartphones, tablets, or Chromebooks). You can [click here](#) to read more about TC’s computer requirement policy and system requirements.
- **Word processing software** to type, edit, and save essays (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Pages, etc. will work). All students have access to the web-based Microsoft Office suite, including Word, for free through their TC OneDrive.
- **Basic computer skills** are required (you should be able to access web sites, be comfortable navigating in Moodle and in your chosen word processing software, be able to open and save files, conduct online research, and so on).
- **Backup/ alternative means of computer and internet access** (in case of outage or computer failure). Have a plan for where you would go to get online or use a computer if your computer or network fails. Computer or internet failure is NOT an excuse for missing coursework.
- **Respondus LockDown Browser exam-monitoring software** (one-time download available in Moodle; compatible with most but not all computer systems. Try the practice test in Moodle to ensure your system is compatible. If it is not, you will need to complete your exams in the TC Testing Center). [Watch this video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser.](#)
- **Webcam** for Respondus LockDown Browser. This can be a USB webcam or built into your monitor or laptop.

Class Policies

- Because our class meets online, nearly all of our communications will be electronic and in writing. Take extra care that your communications are clear and professional. Please observe the following netiquette guidelines.
- **Attempt to find your own answer.** If you’re confused or stuck on an assignment, your first instinct may be to immediately ask your instructor a question. Before you ask, take the time to try to figure it out on your own. For questions related to class structure, such as due dates or policies, refer to your syllabus, calendar, or assignment guidelines. Attempt to find the answers to any other questions on your own using a search engine. If your questions remain unanswered after a bit of effort, feel free to contact me.
- **Proofread, proofread, proofread.** This is true for your essays but also for any other written communication. Misspelled words and typos lead to confusion and are distracting to readers. Use proper punctuation and capitalization. Keep in mind that typing in ALL CAPS denotes shouting. Read everything from an objective point-of-view and make sure that your message will make sense to your readers.
- **Be kind and respectful.** This class is made up of a diverse group of students from all backgrounds and walks of life. Always err on the side of being professional, respectful, and kind. In virtual communications, be as polite as you would be if you were speaking face-to-face. Be aware that sarcasm and jokes do not often come across successfully in writing. It is possible to disagree with someone but still be polite and respectful.

Grades

All assignments are worth points and are important. Use your course calendar to keep up with all due dates. Do not procrastinate, especially on writing assignments.

Start working NOW toward the grade that you want. Don’t wait until the end of the semester and ask how you can get an A, B, or whatever grade—by then, it will be too late. Your average is determined in the following way:

<p>Two essays (each worth 100 points)</p> <p>We will use the TurnItIn tool for all writing assignments submitted in Moodle/ TCOOnline. TurnItIn is a plagiarism-detection software that also checks for common spelling and grammar mistakes. Please note that I use TurnItIn as a grading tool (not as the sole source of your essay grades).</p> <p>All essay assignments must be written using MLA 9th edition guidelines. There are numerous free MLA resources available in Moodle/ TCOOnline.</p>	50%
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<p>Essays may be submitted late only by following the late pass policy below.</p> <p>No one is permitted to re-use essays (yours or someone else's) that were previously submitted for a grade in this or another course. This applies to everyone, including those who may be repeating the class. Re-using essays that have already been submitted for a grade in another course will result in a grade of zero for the assignment without the option to resubmit.</p>	
<p>Three exams (point values vary)</p> <p>All exams are monitored using Respondus LockDown Browser software. See below or the START HERE areas of Moodle for more information.</p> <p>Exams may be submitted late only by following the late pass policy below. The final exam is not late-pass eligible.</p>	30%
<p>Classwork and Homework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes (point values vary) • Discussion boards (30 points each) <p>Assignments in this category may be submitted late only by following the late pass policy below.</p> <p>I will drop everyone's lowest classwork grade at the end of the semester.</p>	20%

Late work/ late pass policy: If you get behind in your work, it is extremely difficult to get caught up. Make things easier on yourself: Please work ahead as much as possible and do not get into the habit of completing work at the last minute. Because life often gets in the way and emergencies do happen, everyone is granted **THREE** no-questions-asked late work passes. These can be used for any assignment except the final exam and will grant you an extension of three calendar days to submit the assignment. To use a late pass, you must notify me via email *before* the assignment is due (include "Late Pass" in the subject line of the email). Do not say why you are asking for the late pass. It does not matter. Your request will be approved as long as you have not already used all your late passes; therefore, you do not need to wait for a reply, as all requests will be approved. Submit the assignment in Moodle/ TCOonline within three calendar days of the due date. **Save your late passes and use them wisely, because I cannot accept late work after you have used your late pass or if you have neglected to request one.**

I regularly update grades in MyTC, so please monitor your grades and let me know if you see anything that looks incorrect. Please be aware that any assignment not submitted for a grade (or not submitted after using a late pass) will count as a zero in the gradebook.

Bonus/ extra credit assignments: I do not offer extra credit or bonus assignments. Students who are concerned about their course average should meet with me during office hours so that we can discuss their class performance and ways to improve their grades.

Grading Scale: A = 89.5-100%; B = 79.5-89%; C = 69.5-79%; D = 59.5-69%; F = 0-59.4%

Return of graded work: I know that it is important for you to know your grades and how you are doing in the class. I promise to provide feedback and return all work in a timely fashion. In general, you can expect all classwork to be graded and returned by the next class period. I generally grade and return essays within one week of the due dates. Please note that while you are welcome to submit assignments early, I do not grade any work until after the assignment's due date has

passed.

Attendance

Attendance is absolutely required and vital to your success, and TC has a strict attendance policy. Attendance in an online class means that you are logging in and completing assignments each week. Moodle keeps a detailed log of all your activity in the course. **Anyone who has not logged into Moodle AND completed assignments for more than one week will be dropped from the course. Being dropped from a course may negatively impact your financial aid.**

Please note that the only “excused absences” that TC recognizes are active military duty and religious holy days. If something is happening in your life that is causing you to miss assignments or keeping you from logging in to class, please reach out to me as soon as possible so that we can come up with a game plan.

I am required to enter all attendance information in MyTC. Please note that if you miss class, you will receive attendance alert emails from Mrs. Melva Flowers in the Office of Student Retention. These are automatically generated in MyTC and do not mean you have been dropped from the class; however, these messages just serve as a warning for the number of times you have missed class.

Other Important Policies and Information

Academic dishonesty policy/academic integrity statement: We will use the MLA Ninth Edition guidelines to format papers and cite all sources for this course. If you borrow words or ideas from others, cite them appropriately (with both in-text and works cited citations). I must be able to see a true representation of your writing abilities in order to give you useful feedback on what you are doing well and what you can improve. Copying other students’ work, incorporating sources without citing them, paying someone else to do your work, reusing work from other classes, and/or relying on AI will stifle your growth as a writer. Any evidence of plagiarism (including but not limited to copy-pasting from the web without correct citations, reusing papers submitted for another class, submitting another student’s work as your own, or having another person or AI complete work for you) will result in a grade of zero for the assignment (with no option to re-submit) and referral to the Dean of Students. Please see the student handbook for more information. To identify plagiarism and academic dishonesty, I will use TurnItIn, online plagiarism and AI detectors, and comparisons of your finished work with earlier drafts and to your other writing.

To ensure exam integrity, you may be required to use Respondus LockDown Browser to take the final exam for this course. Evidence of cheating or academic dishonesty during an exam, included but not limited to having someone else take the exam, using notes, books, or unauthorized resources during the exam, will result in a grade of zero for the exam with no option to resubmit and referral to the Dean of Students.

TC email: Students should check their TC Email account on a regular basis (at least twice weekly) to check for general information sent from campus or instructors. Through your TC email, you have access to Microsoft One Drive (including the web-based versions of Word, Powerpoint, and Excel).

Mrs. Maggio’s communication policy: If you have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me with an email, call, or visit my office. I try to reply to all emails and phone calls within 12 hours. If it has been more than 24 hours since you sent your message and I have not responded to you, chances are I haven’t received the message, so you may want to try again (it also does not hurt to double-check the email address for misspellings or typos). I usually check email and log on to Moodle/ TCOonline once or twice a day on weekdays and weekends but usually do not check or log in on holidays. I also do not check email between the hours of 7:30 pm and 7:30 am, while I am in class, or the 15 minutes prior to class time.

Policy on computer access/ technology failure: It is the student’s responsibility to understand how to use Moodle/ TCOonline and word processing software, maintain access to a working computer, and maintain access to a high-speed internet connection in order to keep up with online class assignments.

Because computer and network problems can and will occur, students should have a plan for alternative computer access. Botched submissions or faulty attachments do not count for credit, and computer problems cannot be used as an excuse for late work. Make sure you begin your assignments early and avoid submitting assignments during the final hour. Save your documents often and use OneDrive or Google Drive. Keep copies of all your work, because you never know when something might be useful. If you're reading this, email me the magic word "unicorn," and I'll add five percentage points to your Week 1 quiz score. Offer expires 03/30/2025 at 11:59 pm.

If access to a computer or reliable Internet concerns you, please discuss with your instructor or advisor how you might take a proactive approach to your online success. **Please be aware that not all course components will work on mobile devices, tablets, or iPads. You cannot be successful in an online class if the only computer you have is a smartphone.**

ADA/ disability statement: TC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Human Resources Director, 2500 N. Robison Rd., Texarkana, TX, 75599, 903-823-3017, human.resources@texarkanacollege.edu.

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Tonja Blasé at 903.823.3349, or go by the office of Disability Services located in the Academic Commons (library) for personal assistance.

If a student qualifies for accommodations from the TC Director of Disability Services indicating that he or she has a disability that requires academic accommodations, the director will send an email to the instructor so accommodations can be made. It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

FERPA: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly known as FERPA, is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Students have specific, protected rights regarding the release of such records and FERPA requires that institutions adhere strictly to these guidelines.

In compliance with the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, Texarkana College is prohibited from providing certain information including grades, bills, financial aid, and other student record information to any third party unless the student gives us written permission. This restriction applies, but is not limited to your parents, guardians, spouse, and your employer. Each student has the right to grant Texarkana College permission to release information about your records to a third party by completing and submitting a FERPA Student Information Release Authorization Form.

Student resources: There are many offices and dozens of people at TC who are standing by willing to help you with nearly any kind of issue that might arise during your time as a student. Visit <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/current-students/> to view all student resources.

- **Needs statement:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing enough food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in this course or ability to remain in school is urged to contact Tonja Blasé, Director of Student Retention, at 903-823-3349, for support. TC provides a care closet with food and personal hygiene items. Contact Phillip Parrish for more information: phillip.parrish@texarkanacollege.edu or 903-823-3418.
- **Pregnant and parenting students:** If you are pregnant and/or the parent/legal guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age and in need of information about resources in our community, please contact the Pregnant and Parenting Students Liaison, Kippie Hartcraft at kippie.hartcraft@texarkanacollege.edu or 903-823-3462.
- **Counseling services:** TC students may receive confidential counseling with no charge and no insurance required

from Mrs. Luretha Loudermill, LPC. Visit the following website for more information:

<https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/campus-life/counseling-services/>.

- **Tutoring:** tutoring is available on the second floor of the Academic Commons and online through Teams. You can make a tutoring appointment by visiting <https://texarkanacollege.libcal.com/>.
- **Student success coaching:** the Student Success office provides a wealth of services, including a laptop loaner program, career planning, support, connection to research, information about success strategies, online tutoring, and more. Contact success@texarkanacollege.edu, stop by the office located in the administration building, or visit the following website for more information: <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/student-life/student-support/student-success/>
- **Technology and log-in help:** Contact the TC Service Desk at 903-823-3030 or support@texarkanacollege.edu.

Last day to drop: The last day for students to withdraw from class (earn a grade of W) is Friday, Feb. 28 (Spring I) or Friday, May 2 (Spring II).

Disclaimer: The above guidelines are subject to amendment by the instructor or by mutual agreement between instructor and class at any point during the semester. Students will be notified if any changes occur.

Bottom line and final notes: I promise that no one on this campus wants you to be successful in this course more than I want you to be successful! However, it's up to you to put in the hard work that will be required to make that happen. I will be happy to answer questions and help as much as I can, but you will need to log into class regularly, pay attention, and work diligently. Some of the assignments will be challenging. You need to be willing to put in your time and effort and take constructive criticism to learn and grow as a writer. You will discover that as a college student, natural intelligence or academic talent do not matter as much as hard work and a good work ethic. I am looking forward to a wonderful learning experience with each of you this semester!