



COURSE NAME: Contemporary Literature

COURSE NUMBER: ENG*278

CREDITS: 3 credit hours

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A study of representative post World War II writers from various geographic areas of the globe who reflect philosophies, movements, and styles that influence present-day attitudes. Works discussed will be from American, British, and world traditions, with emphasis placed on culturally diverse movements and on new developments in literary studies.

PREREQUISITE(S): ENG 102

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

AESX

Appreciation of the Aesthetic Dimensions of Humankind

SOPX

Social Phenomena Knowledge & Understanding II

(not within the fields of anthropology, psychology or sociology)

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

None

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

HUM

Humanities elective

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

Appreciation of the Aesthetic Dimensions of Humankind: Students will understand the diverse nature, meanings, and functions of creative endeavors through the study and practice of literature, music, the theatrical and visual arts, and related forms of expression.

Social Phenomena Knowledge & Understanding I and II: Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's, or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these

systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational, or cultural means.

Course Specific Objectives:

1. Analyze works of imaginative literature using principles learned in English 102.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of literary elements of texts, such as figurative language, point of view, irony, and theme.
3. Summarize and define movements in literary analysis, with an emphasis on new developments in literary studies, such as post-Colonialism, postmodernism, and cultural studies.
4. Apply literary analysis to works of contemporary literature.
5. Explain works of imaginative literature in terms of their social, political, economic, historical, or cultural influences.
6. Articulate and interrogate the idea of the literary canon, including the ethical dimensions surrounding its creation, and the influence of the canon on how works of contemporary literature are circulated, disseminated and interpreted.
7. Define and distinguish from previous time periods and movements the conventions of contemporary literature.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which historically omitted voices and culturally diverse movements included in contemporary literature influence and expand the literary canon.
9. Demonstrate the ability to apply the reading and analysis of contemporary literature to current social problems and trends.
10. Write critical essays about works of contemporary literature that demonstrate an understanding of Standard English grammar and mechanics, proper MLA citations, the structure of a critical essay, quoting from a literary work, citing secondary sources, and clear rhetorical choices regarding style.
11. Actively engage with contemporary literature and its creation via a creative project or attendance at a local reading by a contemporary writer.

COURSE CONTENT

Reading, discussing, and writing about post-World War II literature from around the world, including novels, short fiction, poetry, and drama. Emphasis will be placed on voices in literature that have been historically omitted and on culturally diverse movements in contemporary literature.

- A. Review of writing about literature, including such elements as the structure of a critical essay, quoting from a literary work, and citing secondary sources through methods that may include the following:
 1. Review of MLA formatting conventions
 2. Review of research methodologies
 3. Review of source evaluation methodologies
 4. Use of primary versus secondary sources
- B. Exploration of those qualities in contemporary literature which are conventions of this period, and of those which represent the continuation of earlier traditions through methods that may include the following:
 1. Definition of the literary canon

2. Definition of literary movements
 3. Definition of literary genres
- C. Review of the political, economic, social, and cultural movements and ideas which have influenced and formed contemporary literature, through methods that may include the following:
1. Discussion of how contemporary literature responds to and is influenced by contemporary problems and events such as equal rights, war, race, gender, identity, and other large-scale societal concerns.
 2. Discussion of how and to what extent contemporary literature provides a voice for oppressed and/or under-represented voices and populations.
- D. Introduction to literary textual analysis, with an emphasis on new developments in literary studies, such as post-Colonialism, postmodernism, and cultural studies through methods that may include the following:
1. Application of literary theory to works of contemporary literature.
- E. Introduction to experimental and unique literary forms and aesthetics, such as the graphic novel, podcasts, performance/spoken word, and other relevant, present-day formats.
- F. Experience the creation or presentation of contemporary literature via the creation of a creative work or attendance at a local reading by a contemporary writer through methods that may include the following:
1. Discussion of what elevates creative work to the level of literature
 2. Discussion of the means of production of creative works, who has access to those means, and who controls access to those means
 3. Discussion of who consumes contemporary literature