



### III. Statement of Course Need

- A. American Literature: Post Civil War to the Present is a course that offers students the opportunity to study an important literary period. It is typically taught in college English departments and meets the requirements of the College's general education goals as well as the English Department's Associate of Arts in English degree plan. The course will transfer to four-year programs as an English elective, a general elective, or a free elective. American Literature: Post Civil War to the Present provides an important foundation for students who choose to major in English or other areas of the Liberal Arts or Humanities.
- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature general education course.

### IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities/English Literature
- C. This course meets a Category A elective requirement for the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Realism, Naturalism, and Regionalism
- B. Modernism
- C. Harlem Renaissance and The Jazz Age
- D. Post World War II Literature, The Beats, and The Literature of Resistance
- E. Post-Modernism
- F. Contemporary Literature

### VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

#### A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Analyze American literary texts within their historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-1, 6, 7, \*)
2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE- 1, 6, \*)
3. Demonstrate how American writers' responses to historical events and social structures are influenced by their time, culture, and perspective (GE- 7)

(\*Embedded critical thinking)

**B. Additional Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Explain key characteristics of different periods, traditions, and authors in American literature
2. Identify recurrent themes, concerns, and tensions in American literature and culture.

**C. Assessment Instruments**

1. research papers
2. demonstrations
3. essays
4. journals
5. response papers
6. discussion questions
7. exams

**VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. journals
- I. response papers

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study

**VIII. Texts and Materials**

Samples of specific texts:

- A. An anthology of American literature (e.g., Norton, Heath, Bedford, or an OER anthology, e.g. *Writing the Nation*)
- B. Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
- C. Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- D. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- E. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- F. Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- G. Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- H. Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
- I. Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
- J. Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
- K. Art Spiegelman, *Maus*
- L. Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*
- M. Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
- N. Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## **IX. Resources**

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

## **X. Honors Options**

There is no Honors Option for this course