



ENGL 2410

Division: Humanities

Department: English

Course: ENGL 2410

Title: Western American Literature

Catalog Description:

This course is a regional study of literature of the American West. Areas of emphasis include Native Americans, the mountain man, the settlers, the cowboy myth hero, and the American frontier. Manifest Destiny and the multicultural nature of Westward Expansion will be emphasized in the course.

General Education Requirements: Humanities

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Justification:

English 2410 allows students to read, discuss, and write about literature written about the region west of the Mississippi River. The idea of the American frontier as a unique influence on the character of individuals, on a sense of community, and on exploitation of the land in the past and in contemporary times is explored. Literary texts are placed in a historical context and viewed as a way of coming to a better understanding of self through universal themes expressed in a regional context.

This course offers a General Education opportunity to students who are not attracted to the traditional canon of literature written in English.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will know representative authors, works, and themes of Western American literature.

Students will be able to discuss representative works in Western American literature in historical and thematic contexts.

Students will believe that western American literature is an important aspect of contemporary and traditional culture and history.

English 2410 covers a culturally and historically representative selection of the best of the genre, including whole works or excerpts by 5-10 of the following authors (works by other authors may be added at the instructor's discretion):

Owen Wister. *The Virginian*.

A.B. Guthrie. *The Big Sky*.

James Welch. *Fools Crow*.

Wallace Stegner. *Collected Short Stories*.

Frank Waters. *The Man Who Killed the Deer*.

Cormac McCarthy. *All the Pretty Horses*.

Oliver La Farge. *Laughing Boy*.

Conrad Richter. *The Sea of Grass*.

N. Scott Momaday. *House Made of Dawn*.

Willa Cather. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.

Zane Grey. *Riders of the Purple Sage*.

Leslie Marmon Silko. *Ceremony*.

Tony Hillerman. *Sacred Clowns*.

Norman Maclean. *A River Runs Through It*.

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read a variety of primary texts and are quizzed on their basic content. Discussion questions are designed to elicit constructive and critical responses to assigned readings. Students will receive feedback from the instructor and peers through testing, discussion, and written assignments.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

An important goal of this course is to foster an appreciation of Western American literature. Students will be able to recognize common themes, literary devices employed by an author, and beauty in language. Students will receive feedback from the instructor and peers.

Key Performance Indicators:

Class Participation 10%

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Regular content quizzes: 25% of the final grade

Exams: 30% of the final grade

Writing assignments: 35% of the final grade

Percentages are approximate.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Instructor selected texts will be used.

See Content above for representative examples.

Optimum Class Size: 20

Maximum Class Size: 30

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the English Department:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)