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Mentoring Hours: W 2-3:15, Th 10-11:15

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**English 204(GA): Modern American Literature from 1865 to the Present**  
**M/W 11-12:15 – G 323 - Fall 2022**  
**CRN: 11034**

**Course Description (NCC Catalog):**

This course studies evolving notions of the American individual and American society since the Civil War. Attention is paid to important literary texts and authors, significant historical and political events, and artistic innovations and movements. Writers studied include authors such as: Dickinson, Whitman, Twain, Wharton, Washington, DuBois, Eliot, Hemingway, Faulkner, Ellison, Baldwin, Plath, Rich, Alexie and others. Writing is an integral component of the course.  
SUNY GEN ED-GHUM; NCC GEN ED-WESH, HUM, LIT

**Course Approach:** We will develop questions and perspectives that will help us make sense of the material we are reading and, by association, the material we do not have time to read. In particular, we will organize our studies around how building America impacted and was impacted by political, social and cultural events and shook loose new questions and materials for America to consider. Moreover, we will examine the texts we read in order to learn something about ourselves and the America in which we live.

**Required text:** *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Vol. Two: 1865 to the Present* Shorter Tenth Edition (2022) ISBN: 978-0-393-88618-4 **OR** *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Vol. Two: 1865 to the Present* Shorter Ninth Edition (2017) ISBN: 978-0-393-26453-1

**Recommended text:** Lunsford, *Easy Writer* (6<sup>th</sup> edition) and a collegiate dictionary  
(Electronic versions of assigned texts can be used as long as they are the equivalent of the texts used in class.)

**Grading, Attendance and Other Class Policies:**

**Grading:** All features of the class are weighted equally and graded on a scale of 1-10. There are 5 grades in the semester for a total of 200 points. The final grade will be calculated by totaling these grades. (A = 180 and above, B+ = 170 min, B = 160 min, C+ = 150 min, C = 140 min, D+ = 130 min, D = 120 min, F = Below 120)

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**Class Participation (20 points total):** This component concerns attending class regularly, demonstrating preparation for class work, and contributing to class discussion. Meeting with the instructor outside of class for conferences (in person, via Zoom, or through phone conferences) also counts towards this feature of the class.

**Discussion Board Work (20 points):** This component focuses on specific Discussion Board tasks (during and outside of class meetings). Students will ask new questions about texts being studied and look for opportunities to build connections between texts and to current events. For this work, during each unit students may be asked to respond to a specific prompt, post original content, and respond to the work of at least 1 classmate. The “Discussion Board” portion of this grade will be determined by how many of these tasks a student completes; full credit requires all tasks to be completed.

**Quizzes (30 points; 10 points each):** Three (3) times during the semester, students take a short quiz featuring multiple choice or short answer questions. Quizzes will be open notebook / open textbook. The questions will be derived from class work and class discussion, will require students to refer to the texts they have studied. The exam will be administered through Blackboard and can be taken twice during the

exam's availability. Students will have 45 minutes for each quiz.

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**Essays (90 points; 30 points each):** Three (3) times during the semester, students will prepare, revise, and edit an original discussion of a text or texts studied during the semester. Essays will either focus on a close reading of a single text, a comparative analysis of two texts, or an analysis of course materials grounded in scholarship on the writers, ideas, or texts involved. Each assignment should be at approximately 3 pages in length and use MLA style documentation. Deadlines are listed on the Class Schedule page; work may be turned in earlier than the dates listed. The papers will need to use MLA style formatting and documentation. Essays will be turned via Turnitin through Blackboard, AND students **must keep digital copies of their work**. All essays will be eligible for revision.

**Final Exam (40 points):** The exam may feature short answer and/or mini-essay questions and will be open notebook / open textbook. These questions will be derived from class work and class discussion, will require students to refer to the texts they have studied. The exam will be administered through Blackboard and can be taken just once during the exam's availability. Students will have 90 minutes for the Final Exam.

### **Course Policies/Procedures:**

As of the writing of this syllabus, the course will meet in real-time on the dates and during the times listed above via Zoom. All essays, assignments, quizzes, and ungraded work will take place via Blackboard (Bb). **This class will be conducted via remote instruction.** Students must be available to meet via Zoom or other video-conferencing program at the scheduled days and times and must have access to a working, up-to-date computer with consistent access to the internet. In addition, students must be able to create and save documents (.doc, .docx, or .pdf preferred) and to use email to send and retrieve course materials as attachments. At the instructor's discretion this class may also require Blackboard or another shared web-based space such as Google Drive.

Quizzes and Discussion Board work will occur through Blackboard (Bb) and will happen mostly outside of class meeting times. Deadlines will be posted or announced.

**Attendance/Lateness:** Regardless of whether classes are held in-person or remotely, the following policy is in effect: "Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences due to illness or for other serious reasons may be excused\* by the instructor. Students are advised that absences in excess of 10%\*\* of the total class meetings may result in the student being dropped from the course...." (NCC Catalog).

\*Students should not assume that absences have been excused. The instructor reserves the right to make the final determination for distinguishing between excused and unexcused absences. Students wishing to have an absence or absences excused should consult and stay in regular contact with the instructor.

\*\*For the purposes of this class, 10% equals 3 absences. At the discretion of the instructor, students will be marked "ABSENT" if they leave or cease to participate in the Zoom session before the end of the class. Students will be marked "LATE" for any class meeting at which they arrive more than 5 minutes after class begins.

**Class Citizenship and Behavior:** To encourage full involvement from all students in the class, students will be expected to treat classmates with respect and consideration. Classrooms, like communities, work best when all present feel safe. If students engage in personal attacks or behavior that makes other students feel "unsafe", the instructor will remove those students from class for the day or for the semester if they behave consistently in a way as to make the class an "unsafe" place.

Disruptive conduct in the classroom that interferes with the instructor's performance of his/her professional functions or that undermines the integrity of student learning will not be tolerated. Consult the Student

Handbook for further details:

[https://collegecatalog.ncc.edu/current/policiesandprocedures/academic\\_info/classroom\\_disruption\\_policy.html](https://collegecatalog.ncc.edu/current/policiesandprocedures/academic_info/classroom_disruption_policy.html)

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Students will be expected to turn off and to put away all unnecessary electronic devices. In the case of an emergency, students should notify the instructor that the device must remain “on”. If so, the device will be set on “silent” and/or “vibrate”.

**Zoom Etiquette:** When necessary, class meetings may be conducted through Zoom (a videoconferencing platform). Even though we will not be together in a single room and even though many of us will be accessing class meetings from home, work, or public spaces, I still want to do what we can to create a classroom community that will foster collaborative work and communication. With that in mind, the following policies will apply:

- 1) Students should be dressed appropriately for a public class.
- 2) Students should not be laying down in bed.
- 3) Where/when possible, students should access the class from a private space.
- 4) Where/when possible, students should access the class with video through a computer or Smartphone, especially at the start of class and when participating in class discussion/work.
- 5) Students should use their “mute” function when asked by the instructor.

**Work to be handed in:** All work will be submitted digitally through BlackBoard and/or Turnitin.com and must be double-spaced and have original titles. Students should use MS Word or GoogleDocs for submission of their essays and any other work submitted to Turnitin.com. Students are responsible for saving digital copies of their work in case of the need for Academic Honesty assessment or in case of instructor error.

**No late work or emailed work** will be accepted except by previous agreement with the instructor. If you expect to be absent for a class in which work is due or if you miss class, then please submit your work as per the assignment’s instructions

Students are responsible for arranging to make up missed in-class assignments. Except for extraordinary circumstances, students will be expected to have completed missed in-class assignments the next time they come to class.

**Revision:** Revising written work will play a significant role in the class. In addition to any mandatory revision assignments, Context Works 1-3 may be re-submitted within **one week** of receiving graded work in order to be eligible for a possible change of grade. Additionally, ungraded written work may be revised for possible Class Participation credit.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is essential to the success of the class and to its students. Plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty on any assignment will result in failure (a grade of zero) for that assignment and may result in further disciplinary action, including but not limited to failure for the course and dismissal from the college. See the Nassau Community College policy on [Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism:](http://collegecatalog.ncc.edu/current/policiesandprocedures/academic_info/ac_dishonesty.html)  
[http://collegecatalog.ncc.edu/current/policiesandprocedures/academic\\_info/ac\\_dishonesty.html](http://collegecatalog.ncc.edu/current/policiesandprocedures/academic_info/ac_dishonesty.html).

**Student (Office) Hours:** In general, during Student (Office) Hours, the instructor and the student will work on issues arising out of class content, work, and issues. However, these discussions can also focus on other factors impacting on the student’s performance and ability to succeed in the class and at the college.

Students do not need to make appointments; these meetings will be conducted via Zoom. During these times, students are seen on a first-come, first-served basis determined by when they enter the Zoom “waiting room” using the public link available through the Blackboard. The instructor will “admit” students

one at a time unless students choose to be seen together. Students are encouraged to make frequent use of this resource.

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Students should also feel free to ask questions via email or via phone and to correspond or to make appointments outside of Student (Office) Hours with the instructor as needed.

**Mentoring Hours:** During Mentoring meetings, the instructor and the student will work on the issues impacting the student’s college experience. Issues may include school/life balance, study skills, transfer, course selection and planning, as well as issues emerging out of specific class experiences.

These meetings are by appointment only; students should contact the instructor to schedule a meeting. Meetings usually last for approximately 30 minutes, but shorter or longer times can be arranged. All meetings will be conducted via Zoom, and students will receive private Zoom invitations via NCC email.

If the instructor’s listed times of availability do not work, then the instructor will work to find alternate times or to find a faculty colleague with whom the student could work.

**Faculty Website:** The instructor may hand out documents/materials for the class in hard-copy. All documents/materials will be posted to the DOCUMENTS section of the instructor’s website (see url at top of first page of syllabus) for reading or for downloading; the website is accessible for students from home or from campus computer stations/labs. If a student misses a class, he/she should check the website to see if a new document has been posted for the course before returning to class.

**Writing Center:** Students should avail themselves of tutoring in the writing process available through the Writing Center. The Writing Center offers one-on-one tutoring as well as workshops covering grammar and MLA and APA research and documentation styles. These services should be considered an integral part of the coursework and will help the student master the necessary knowledge and skills for this class. Students may contact the Writing Center at 572-7195 or 516-572-3595, email [wcenter@ncc.edu](mailto:wcenter@ncc.edu), and may submit their work using the online submission form: <https://nccapps.ncc.edu/WritingCenter/>.

**The Center for Students With Disabilities:** "If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may have an impact on your ability to carry out the assigned coursework, I urge you to contact the staff at the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), Building U, (516)572-7241, TTY (516)572-7617. The counselors at CSD will review your concerns and determine to what reasonable accommodations you are entitled as covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All information and documentation pertaining to personal disabilities will be kept confidential."

*\*\* REMAINING in this course constitutes your acceptance of the policies, expectations, and responsibilities outlined in this syllabus and stated in the course overview during the first week of class. The syllabus, including the schedule of class assignments and readings, is subject to change at the professor’s discretion.\*\**

## **English Department Literature Course Goals and Outcomes:**

### **Course Goals and Outcomes**

**Writing Competency:** to produce precise, clear, grammatically-correct, well-developed, and well-organized writing appropriate to academic, social, and occupational fields; **Outcomes:** Students will produce coherent texts within common college level forms and revise and improve such texts.

**Critical Thinking:** to be able to question information and to use reason to determine what to believe or what to do; **Outcomes:** Students will identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments as they occur in their own and others’ work and develop well-reasoned arguments.

**Informational Literacy:** to locate, evaluate, and incorporate relevant source materials into the construction of an argument or informed point of view; **Outcomes:** Students will access and utilize basic computer and internet functions, demonstrating appropriate and effective utilization of programs and functions; use basic research techniques, demonstrating appropriate, effective research skills; locate, evaluate, organize, and synthesize information from a variety of sources on a specific topic to support an argument; and apply ethical and legal standards for use of source information, demonstrating the application of accepted ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published works.

**Humanities Competency:** to understand the conventions and practices of English Studies; **Outcomes:** Students are able to analyze or interpret texts, ideas, discourse systems, and the human values they reflect.

Welcome to the Fall 2022 Semester at Nassau Community College! Please see below for an overview of the current COVID-19 policies and guidelines here at NCC. **Changes to COVID-19 policy are bolded below.**

The College is constantly reviewing its COVID-19 policies to reflect guidance from the CDC, local Department of Health, and SUNY. As such, please note that the information below is subject to change. For all COVID-19 policies and updates, [please visit our COVID-19 overview page.](#)

### Masking

- **As of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Nassau County is at a Medium COVID-19 level per CDC. As such, effective September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, mask wearing is optional campus-wide with certain exceptions.**
- Masking remains mandatory in the following locations:
  - Campus Testing Site located in the CCB Glass Atrium
  - Student Health Office
- Additionally, if you are an individual who is cleared to return to campus after 5 days of isolation you must continue to wear your mask for an additional 5 days.
- As always, individuals are strongly encouraged to continually assess their own risk, especially when in large groups or high-density areas. Individuals are not to be discriminated against for choosing to wear a mask.

### Testing

- The College will continue its surveillance testing for the Fall 2022 semester.
- Testing will be located in the CCB Glass Atrium, Monday through Friday except for school holidays.
- Testing is required once a week for individuals with a regular on-campus presence who are not fully vaccinated.
- **Monthly testing is no longer required of individuals who are fully vaccinated but not yet boosted.**
- Please review the NCC Next [overview page](#) for possible exceptions to the testing requirement if you are required to test.

### Symptoms, Exposures, and Testing Positive for COVID-19

- Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 must inform the Health Office using the “Report a Positive Test, Symptoms, or Exposure” form located in the NCC Mobile App and MyNCC Portal. The Health Office will then email the individual with instructions for isolation.
- Isolation periods are typically 5 days, unless otherwise instructed by the Health Office.
- Individuals should directly notify their professors (students) or supervisors (employees) that they have been instructed to isolate.

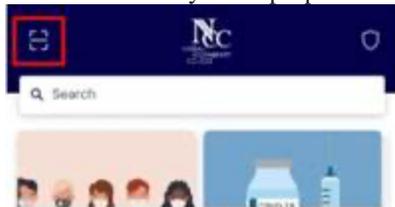
- Prior to return to campus, individuals must fill out the [COVID-19 clearance form](#), located in the NCC Mobile App and MyNCC Portal.

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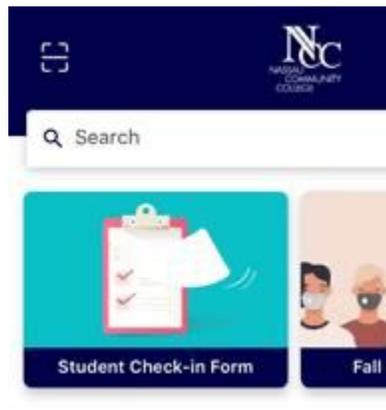
- **Quarantine is no longer required after a close contact exposure. Therefore, individuals no longer need to report exposures to the Health Office.**
  - **Individuals who are a close contact exposure and asymptomatic may come to campus but must wear a mask for 10 days and are recommended to test 5 full days after the exposure.**

#### **Scanning into Classrooms and Classroom Exposures – FOR STUDENTS ONLY**

- Students are required to scan into classrooms and select classroom facilities using QR codes located at the entrance. QR codes must be scanned using the “Scan” icon located on the top left of the NCC Mobile App home screen. Scanning is used to notify students of a possible exposure and is not used for any other purpose.



- Prior to scanning in, students are to complete the “Student Check-In Form”, also located in the NCC Mobile app. **Completing the check-in form once will allow students to scan into class for the rest of the semester.**



- If students are exposed to COVID-19 in the classroom, they will be notified by the Student Health Office via email or NCC Mobile App notification. Faculty will be copied on the notification email to students.
- If individuals have difficulty scanning in, please contact [HealthOffice@ncc.edu](mailto:HealthOffice@ncc.edu).

The College will continue to remain focused on the health and safety of its students and employees. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the NCC Health Office at [HealthOffice@ncc.edu](mailto:HealthOffice@ncc.edu). Thank you for your attention and cooperation, and we look forward having a safe and productive Fall Semester.

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**Class Schedule:**

	<b>Required Readings</b>	<b>Supplementary Materials (Optional)</b>
<b>Sept 7</b>	Introduction to the course Whitman “Song of Myself” (sections 1 & 2)	
<b>Sept 12</b>	“American Literature: 1865-1914” – “The Gilded Age” (1-3) Whitman, “Song of Myself” (sections 1, 2, 6, 10, & 15)	“Reconstructing America” (3-6) “The Literary Marketplace” (6-7)
<b>Sept 14</b>	Civil War Amendments (13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> ) <a href="#">National Archives</a> or <a href="#">Cornell Law School: Legal Information Institute</a>	“Forms of Realism” (8-11) “The ‘Woman Question’” (11-12)
<b>Sept 19</b>	Bierce, “Chickamauga” (333-338) Jewett, “A White Heron” (434-441)	“Unseen Forces” (13-15)
<b>Sept 21</b>	Lazarus, “1492” (431-432) & “The New Colossus” (432) Chopin, “Desiree’s Baby” (442-446) Zitkala-Sa, “The Soft-Hearted Sioux” (660-665)	Howells and <i>from</i> “The Editor’s Study” (579-583)
<b>Sept 26</b>	COLLEGE CLOSED	
<b>Sept 28</b>	Crane, “The Open Boat” (614-630) London, “To Build a Fire” (641-652)	“Realism and Naturalism” (578-579)
<b>Sept 30</b>	QUIZ 1 DUE	
<b>Oct 3</b>	Chestnutt, “The Wife of His Youth” (488-496) Gilman, “The Yellow Wall-Paper” (511-523)	James, “Daisy Miller: A Study” (342-382)
<b>Oct 4 (Monday schedule)</b>	Dreiser, <i>Sister Carrie</i> (Chapter 1: 597-603) Wharton, “The Other Two”	Gilman, <i>from</i> “Masculine Literature” James, “Daisy Miller: A Study” (342-382)
<b>Oct 8</b>	ESSAY 1 DUE	
<b>Oct 10</b>	Washington, <i>from</i> “Up From Slavery: Chapter XIV: The Atlanta Exposition Address” (471-479) Dunbar, “An Ante-Bellum Sermon” (634-636)	“The New American Empire” (15-17) <a href="#">“What to Know about Tulsa Greenwood Massacre” Astor, 20 June 2020 (NYT)</a>

<b>Oct 12</b>	Williams, "Portrait of a Lady" (789) Pound, "A Pact" (799) Frost, "Desert Places" (747) Stevens, "Snow Man" (777) Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (730-734)	"American Versions of Modernism" (677-681) "Modernism Abroad and On Native Grounds" (681-683) <a href="#">The Armory Show of 1913</a>
<b>Oct 17</b>	DuBois, <i>from</i> "The Souls of Black Folk: I – Of Our Spiritual Strivings" (562-567) & III – Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" (568-577) Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask" (636) & "Sympathy" (636-637) McKay, "America" (938) & Hughes, "I, Too" (1038), "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (1037) & "Democracy" (1042-3)	"American Versions of Modernism" (677-681) "Modernism Abroad and On Native Grounds" (681-683)
<b>Oct 19</b>	McKay, "The Harlem Dancer" (936) & "If We Must Die" (937) Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow" & "This Is Just to Say" (793) Dickinson, "Wild Nights" (88) & "I heard a Fly buzz" (96)	"The Two Wars as Historical Markers" (667-670) "Changing Times" (670-674) "Science and Technology" (674-5)
<b>Oct 22</b>	QUIZ 2 DUE	
<b>Oct 24</b>	Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (1032-1035) Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (1009-15)	
<b>Oct 26</b>	Glaspell, "Trifles" (751-761) Hurston, "Sweat" (950-958) & "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (958-61)	Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (958-961)
<b>Oct 28</b>	<b>ESSAY 2 DUE</b>	
<b>Oct 31</b>	Cummings, "next to of course" (964) & "anyone lived in a pretty how town" (966) Steinbeck, "The Chrysanthemums" (1045-52)	O'Neill, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" (857-934) or <a href="#">"The Hairy Ape"</a>
<b>Nov 2</b>	Cullen, "Yet Do I Marvel" (1054) Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" (1059-67)	
<b>Nov 7</b>	Cheever, "The Swimmer" (1183-91) Lowell, "For the Union Dead" (1298-99)	"American Literature since 1945" (1069-70)
<b>Nov 9</b>	Ellison, <i>from Invisible Man</i> (Chapter 1: "Battle Royal") (1210-20)	"New Readers, New Writers, New Heroes" (1070-78)
<b>Nov 14</b>	Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (1343-1365)	
<b>Nov 16</b>	Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz" (1091) & "The Waking" (1093-4)	

	Plath, "Lady Lazarus" (1444-46) & "Daddy" (1447-49) Sexton, "Sylvia's Death" (1410-12) & "Little Girl, My String Bean..." (1412-14)	
<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>QUIZ 3 DUE</b>	
<b>Nov 21</b>	Rich, "Diving Into the Wreck" (1421-1423) Walker, "Everyday Use" (1568-1574) Kingson, from <i>Woman Warrior</i> ("No Name Woman") (1544-53)	
<b>Nov 23</b>	O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (1381-92)	
<b>Nov 28</b>	Anzaldua, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" (1558-1567) Silko, "Lullaby" (1580-1586)\ Lorde, "Coal" (1491-2) & "Black Mother Woman" (1493)	
<b>Nov 29</b>	<b>ESSAY 3 DUE</b>	
<b>Nov 30</b>	Morrison, "Recitatif" (1429-1442) Trethewey, "Native Guard" (1685-89) & "Photograph: Ice Storm" (1685)	"Experiment and Play in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature" (1081-84)
<b>Dec 5</b>	Erdrich, "Dear John Wayne" (1624-25) Alexie, "Pawn Shop" (1679) Harjo, "Call It Fear" (1606-7)	
<b>Dec 7</b>	Kincaid, "Girl" (1650-51) Spiegelman, from <i>Maus</i> (1588-1604)	"Creative Non-Fiction" (1641-2)
<b>Dec 12</b>	Cisneros, "Woman Hollering Creek" (1614-1622) Lahiri, "Sexy" (1692-1707)	"Literature Now" (1084-86)
<b>Dec 14</b>	Review Whitman, from "Song of Myself" (sections 1 & 2)	
<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM OPENS</b>	
<b>Dec 19</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM SESSION</b>	
<b>Dec 20</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM CLOSES</b>	
<b>Dec 21</b>	Conferences	