WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Major American Writers
COURSE NUMBER: LIT 332

Faculty Name:
Contact Information:

Pre-Requisite: ENG 122 or COM 245
Text/Software:

Credits: 3

40 Hours of Structured Learning Activities

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will survey American literature from the Colonial period to the present. Emphasis will be placed on writers who have significantly influenced the national literature, such as Native American writers, Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allen Poe, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Stephen Crane, Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Flannery O'Connor, and others. Students will use thematic and historical analysis (The Adventure of the Wilderness) as well as various critical frameworks (Structuralism, Formalism, Reader-Response, New Historicism, etc.) to understand, analyze and synthesize the literature across genres and periods. Students will engage in close reading: they will be asked to analyze literature inductively, using clues from the surface level of literature (literary devices) to create larger truths they see in the literature. Student analysis of literature will be expressed through essays, presentations, and other activities.

COURSE GOALS:

GOAL A:
Analyze how literary devices such as setting, plot, characters, themes, symbols, irony and figurative language are used to create meaning in American literature.

Learning Objectives: The student will
A-1 Interpret, analyze, and critique literary devices in American literature.
A-2 Communicate analysis of texts in analytic and reflective writing.
GOAL B:
Analyze text through inductive logic and various critical frameworks as well as the historical contexts of the works.

Learning Objectives: The student will
  B-1 Interpret, analyze, and critique examples of American literature through the lens of literary criticism and historical analysis.
  B-2 Communicate analysis of texts in analytic and reflective writing.

GOAL C:
Design a project that synthesizes American literature thematically (The Adventure of the Wilderness) with other cultures, media, and times.

Learning Objectives: The student will
  C-1 Gather works of art from different media (art, music, literature, movies, TV, and online), and through milestones, analyze how these works connect thematically to American literature.
  C-2 Communicate integration and synthesis of texts and media through an analytic presentation and reflective writing.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND GRADING POLICY:

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

CAS CLASSROOM STANDARDS: See Blackboard “Syllabus” area

COURSE SCHEDULE (all assignments/exams and due dates):