

San José State University

Department of English & Comparative Literature English 68B-1: American Lit. Since 1865–Fall 2012

Instructor:	Balance T. Chow
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Office Hours:	M/W 1:30 – 2:45 PM & By Appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays & Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:15 PM
Classroom:	DMH 354

Course Description

English 68B, the second in a series of two American Literature survey courses intended for English majors in the lower division, covers materials from around 1865 to the present.

Students will be required to play an active role in this course by means of presentations, debates, discussions, and research.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

In this course, we will study works from both the literary and oral traditions representing diverse cultural backgrounds and exemplifying significant issues and expressive forms in order to:

1. familiarize ourselves with the major authors, components (e.g., movements, genres, and themes), and issues in the traditions of American literature [SLO1];
2. appreciate the diversity of the literary canon by exposing ourselves, additionally, to the important writings by women and ethnic-American writers [SLO 2];
3. examine the dynamic relationship, according to the writings studied, between American literature and American society, and in addition inquire into the nature of the national identity as jointly shaped by the authors studied [SLO 3]

Required Texts/Readings

Paul Lauter et al, eds. The Heath Anthology of American Literature, 6th edition (2010), Vols. C, D, & E.

Assignments and Grading Policy*

Course Grading Guidelines**

Students are graded on the following matrix of credits involving their critical thinking, reading, writing, research, discussions and presentations, quizzes/tests and exams, group projects, and overall performance:

PERFORMANCE (Class Work, Discussion, Quizzes)	= 100 points
Presentation on Author or Topic	= 100 points***
Two analytical/critical essays 2 X 200 points	= 400 points
Midterm exam	= 100 points
Final exam (includes an in-class essay)	= 300 points
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TOTAL	= 1000 points

* For numerical score and grade equivalents see the following tables:

Table One: Essays

A- = 90 – 93; A = 94 – 96; A+ = 97 – 99

B- = 80 – 83; B = 84 – 86; B+ = 87 - 89

C- = 70 – 73; C = 74 – 76; C+ = 77 – 79

D- = 60 – 63; D = 64 – 66; D+ = 67 – 69

F or below = 0 for essays.

Table Two: Course Grade

A- = 900 – 933; A = 934 – 966; A+ = 967 – 999

B- = 800 – 833; B = 834 – 866; B+ = 867 - 899

C- = 700 – 733; C = 734 – 766; C+ = 767 – 799

D- = 600 – 633; D = 634 – 666; D+ = 667 – 669

F = 559 or below.

*** Each student will give a 10 minute presentation on an author being studied or a topic of interest related to the texts discussed.

** Students are advised to take note of the following policy statement mandated by the Department of English with regard to grading (effective May 17, 1994):

“The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

A=Excellent;
B=Above Average;
C=Average;
D=Below Average;
F=Failure.

Courses graded according to the A, B, C, No Credit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC, for No Credit, shall replace D or F. In A, B, C, No Credit courses NC shall also substitute for W (for Withdrawal) because neither NC nor W affects students' grade point averages. This statement shall be included in all Department of English syllabi or greensheets.”

In addition, in English Department courses, “instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.”

Departmental Policy on Grading Written Assignments

“In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. *Grades issued will represent a full range of student performance and will adhere to the following SJSU academic standards of assessment:*

The “**A**” essay will be well organized and well developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment. It will show the student’s ability to use language effectively and construct sentences distinguished by syntactic complexity and variety. Such essays will be essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.

The “**B**” essay will demonstrate competence in the same categories as the “A” essay. The chief difference is that the “B” essay will show some slight weaknesses in one of those categories. It may slight one of the assigned tasks, show less facility of _expression, or contain some minor grammatical, mechanical, or usage flaws.

The “**C**” essay will complete all tasks set by the assignment, but show weakness in fundamentals (usually development), with barely enough specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. The sentence construction may be less mature, and the use of language less effective and correct than the “B” essay.

The “**D**” essay will neglect one of the assigned tasks and be noticeably superficial in its treatment of the assignment—that is, too simplistic or short. The essay may reveal some problems in development, with insufficient specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. It will contain grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

The “F” essay will demonstrate a striking underdevelopment of ideas and insufficient or unfocused organization. It will contain serious grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

Class Policy on Late Assignments and Incompletes

1. Assignments shall be turned in when due. Penalty applies to late take-home assignments at the rate of –10%/day overdue of the actual grade earned; maximum penalty up to 100% deduction of grade earned for the work assigned. There will be no make-up for in-class assignments and quizzes. Exams must be taken at the times and dates scheduled, unless an alternative arrangement is granted by the professor.
2. Essay assignments and research papers must be printed to receive credit.
3. Incomplete course work will result in actual grade earned based on points accumulated; an "I" course grade will not be given without signing a contract with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the last instruction day.

Class Policy on Record Keeping

Keep a record of all assignments you have completed. In particular, save backup copies of your essays/papers. For future portfolio purposes, students—ESPECIALLY MAJORS in English & Comparative Literature--are advised to preserve essays/papers graded and returned to them until graduation.

Classroom Protocol

1. Participation is understood to be an essential aspect of learning in this class. Absence without leave, late arrival, unauthorized breaks, early departure, and inattentiveness will be considered in my evaluation of the your participation.
2. The use of cell phones is prohibited without instructor’s consent.
3. The use of laptops for purposes inconsistent with class activities is prohibited.
4. Ingestion of food inside the classroom is prohibited.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	Introduction to the course; Student Presentations
2	8/27 8/29	SLO 1 (Canon) & SLO 2 (Diversity) : <u>African American Folktales</u> 35-53 ; J. C. Harris tales 105-116 <u>African American Pioneers</u> : Chestnut 117-159 ; Dunbar 174-185
3	9/3 9/5	LABOR DAY, NO CLASS. SLO 1 (Canon) & SLO 2 (Diversity): <u>Native Americans</u> : Standing Bear, Eastman, S. Winnemucca 610-637
4	9/10 9/12	SLO 2 (Diversity) & SLO 3 (American Society) : <u>World in America</u> 567-584; F. Dunne & Upton Sinclair 693-716 <i>Continued.</i>
5	9/17 9/19	SLO 1 (Canon) & SLO 2 (Diversity) : <u>Women authors</u> : L M Alcott 757-771; MEW Freeman 845-867; 921 <u>Women authors</u> : Kate Chopin 413-425; Charlotte Gilman 672-692
6	9/24 9/26	SLO 2 (Diversity) & SLO 3 (American Society) : <u>Race question</u> : Booker T Washington & W E B Dubois 1130-1180 <u>Post-racial Nation</u> : James Weldon Johnson 1181-1203 Review; ESSAY 1 DUE 10/1
7	10/1 10/3	Midterm Exam SLO 1 (Canon) & SLO 3 (American Society): <u>Modern Poets</u> : R. Frost 1335-1348; E. St. Vincent Millay 1376-1384
8	10/8 10/10	SLO 1 (Canon): <u>Alienation</u> : Eugene O'Neill—The Hairy Ape 1485-1517
9	10/15 10/17	SLO 1 (Canon): <u>Tradition & Modernism</u> : Ezra Pound 1399-1421 <u>Tradition & Modernism</u> : T. S. Eliot 1581-1594
10	10/22 10/24	SLO 1 (Canon) & SLO 2 (Diversity): <u>Modernisms</u> : W. Carlos Williams 1466-1484, Cummings 1571-1580 <u>Modernisms</u> : Wallace Stevens 1676-1687; Langston Hughes 1773-81
11	10/29 10/31	SLO 1, 2, 3 (Canon, Diversity, American Society): <u>Harlem Renaissance authors</u> : Alain Locke; Jean Toomer 1744-1772; Countee Cullen 1803-1810; Claude McKay 1847-1853
12	11/5 11/7	SLO 3 (American Society), SLO 1 (Canon): <u>Red Scare</u> : Arthur Miller--The Crucible 2402-2476
13	11/12 11/14	SLO 3 (American Society), SLO 1 (Canon): <u>Beat Movement</u> —Poetry 2579-2626
14	11/19 11/21	SLO 3 (American Society): <u>Vietnam Conflict</u> : 2725-2780 <i>Continued</i> ; ESSAY 2 DUE 11/21
15	11/26 11/28	SLO 3 (American Society), SLO 1 (Canon), SLO 2 (Diversity) <u>Native Am. Renaissance</u> : Momaday 2882-91; Alexie 3538-46 <u>Latino/a or Asian American or Other Authors</u> : Students' picks

16	12/3 12/5	<i>Continued</i> <i>Continued</i>
17	12/10	Review; Conclusion to the course

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 0945-1200 NOON

**The instructor reserves the right to revise this greensheet.
Updates will be provided in class or by email in a timely manner
or as soon as possible.**