

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ENG 242

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Survey of American Literature II

**Course Description:** Examines American literary works from the late-nineteenth century to the present, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of American national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 242 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. ENG 241 and 242 may be taken out of order. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** ENG 242 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of American literature from the late-nineteenth century to the present. The course introduces students to critical American literary movements, such as *realism*, *modernism*, and *postmodernism*. As a writing intensive course, ENG 242 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, and substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have produced at least 12 pages (3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and at least 12 pages (3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

**Prerequisite:** ENG 112 or equivalent

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe, analyze, and interpret themes and features of literary texts from a variety of genres, using appropriate literary terminology;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary movements covered in the survey, including literary techniques, innovations, major writers, and major texts;
- c. Explain the relationship between literature and the historical and cultural contexts in which it is produced, with particular attention to the shaping of cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- d. Produce at least 12 pages (a minimum of 3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay examinations, and at least 12 pages (a minimum of 3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries; academic writing about literature should include clear argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation;
- e. Participate in interactive discussions, peer reviews, and/or one or more formal individual and/or group multi-modal presentation;
- f. Locate and evaluate information retrieved from electronic sources, such as academic databases and web resources;
- g. Use available electronic technologies for creating and submitting texts; and
- h. Recognize literary study as a means for intellectual, aesthetic, and personal growth and for engaging meaningful and enduring questions across human cultures.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

Students may expect to study the following:

- a. American writing and writers from the late-nineteenth century to the present era
- b. Literary genres including, but not limited to, poetry, fiction, essay, and drama
- c. Literary and artistic movements such as *realism*, *naturalism*, *modernism*, the Harlem Renaissance, the Lost Generation, the Southern Renaissance, the Beat Generation, and *postmodernism*
- d. Critical literary and artistic vocabularies that engage oral and written discussions with the language of the discipline
- e. Literary writing within the broader contexts of social, political, gender, racial, and class concerns

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** Spring 2014 (revised 6/9/2014)