

**SPRING 2022**  
**ENGLISH 2033.51**

(100% online, 100% asynchronous)

**INTRODUCTION TO MODERN AMERICAN LITERATURE**



**Instructor:** Dr. Stephen Souris, Professor of English, Texas Woman's University. SSouris@twu.edu

**Catalog course title and catalog course description:** "American Literary Masterpieces.... Major works of American literature studied in chronological sequence. Attention to both poetry and prose. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours."

**Semester-specific description:** An introduction to great works of American literature from the Civil War to the present. Mostly fiction. Some poetry. One play. The course will be as much an introduction to literature as it is an introduction to modern American literature. This course is 100% online and 100% asynchronous.

**Date of final exam:** Saturday, May 7, 2022.

**Protocol for online courses with this professor:** Each unit will have a podcast lecture in Panopto with closed captioning. Lectures will be in the middle of the respective units to promote student engagement and original thinking prior to the lecture. Discussion topics for each unit will be available to stimulate discussion forum activity.

**Graduate Assistant:** A Graduate Assistant will be available for assistance to supplement what the instructor can provide.

**Time & place:** Entirely online; entirely asynchronous (no mandatory meetings at a designated time). There will be several *optional* class-wide video calls using Zoom for students seeking clarification about course procedures and requirements. Zoom video calls have a telephone option for audio only.

**Requirements:** Access to a conventional-size laptop or desktop computer; familiarity with Canvas; familiarity with what is required to manage and succeed in a 100% online course; discipline to handle an entirely online course; ability to work with information provided entirely in writing and via closed-captioned

podcasts in Panopto; regular reading; regular participation in the discussion forums (at least 2500 words total for the semester); research exercise (article review—see below); five tests in Canvas (four midterm tests and one comprehensive, cumulative final exam); avoidance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism; and access to a telephone. Required research exercise (article review): In 2000-level courses, at least one posting to a discussion forum must consist of a summary of and commentary on a relevant scholarly article related to the assigned readings.

**Optional work on the “Enhanced Educational Experience Plan”:** 1) a conventional full-length research-based term paper; 2) compare-contrast essay exercises at semester end; 3) a creative project related to the course and drawing upon special talents; 4) an extensive, annotated bibliography of secondary sources related to our readings; 5) especially extensive participation in the discussion forums following specified guidelines; 6) a collaborative project. Canvas tests can be reduced to as little as 25% of the course grade by selecting three components of the EEE Plan, which is strongly recommended. Honors Contracts, which can incorporate the EEE Plan, are welcome. The EEE Plan is entirely optional.

**Required Books:** (on order through TWU Bookstore; if you order on your own, make sure what you’re ordering has the exact ISBN listed below)

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature, \*Ninth Edition,\* Package 2: Volumes C, D, E.*

- [E-book version](#) (\$35): ISBN 9780393624090

*Download directly from the publisher, WW Norton. If the link doesn’t work, go to [WWNorton.com](http://WWNorton.com) and enter the ISBN (in the format used above) in the search field.*

- [Paperback version](#): ISBN 9780393264555

*Used copies also available; rental option also available.*

**First assignments:** Stephen Crane’s “The Open Boat” and Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening*.

**TWU Core Curriculum status of this course:** “Satisfies Language, Philosophy, & Culture Core (40).”

**Additional information:**

- Brief, [advance notice course descriptions for all my courses](#) are usually available via the “Class Schedules” platform, which is accessible to the general public following this path: [twu.edu](http://twu.edu) > A-Z index > Class Schedules. Alternatively, they are also available through Web Advisor / Student Planning when searching for specific courses. I try to have advance notice course descriptions available starting with March 1 for summer and fall courses and Oct. 1 for spring courses. (Tip: If you encounter a “cookie” problem, access the Class Schedules platform via the “incognito” option with Google Chrome.)
- *Miscellaneous Notes: This information is preliminary and is subject to change with notification. This is not an official course syllabus; the official course syllabus, distributed at the beginning of the semester, will provide the most detailed and current information. Nor is this announcement intended to meet the requirements of House Bill 2504; a 2504 version of the course syllabus will be made available separately. A detailed course syllabus including a calendar of reading assignments from a previous semester is available upon request. The course syllabus and readings for this semester will be very similar. For further information: [SSouris@twu.edu](mailto:SSouris@twu.edu). Subject line: “Inquiry about Eng. 2033.” [10-18-2021]*