



AML 3051
American Literature from 1912-1945
90891 001
Fall 2026

Instructor Name

Lindsey Kurz

University Course Description

A study of poetry, drama, and fiction by such writers as Pound, Stein, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner, Porter, Toomer, Cummings, Williams, Anderson, Steinbeck, Wright, West, Stevens, Henry Miller, and others.

Course Requisites

Prerequisite(s):

(ENC 1102 Minimum Grade: C-
or English Language and Comp Minimum Score: 4
or English Lit and Comp Minimum Score: 4)

Corequisite(s):

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Think critically** in written assignments that formulate clear thesis statements supported by relevant and sufficient evidence.
- **Communicate** their ideas clearly and effectively in assignments that indicate proficiency with the conventions of college writing.

- **Conduct research** in literary studies by identifying suitable primary and secondary sources and incorporating them into their writing as appropriate.
- **Explain** how one or more texts adheres to or deviates from the prevailing conventions of the period in **literary history** in which it first appeared.

Course Objectives

Thoroughly analyze and communicate analysis of texts using terms and concepts fundamental to literary studies as a discipline, such as aesthetics, form, or genre.

Required Texts and/or Readings and Course Materials

Students are required to purchase the two texts listed below. You may purchase hard copies or e-books; if you choose to purchase e-books, be sure your e-reader allows for annotation (e.g. underlining/highlighting). All other readings will be posted on Canvas – be sure to have a PDF reader on your computer or tablet.

Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*. ISBN: 9780679732259

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. ISBN: 9780060916503

How to Succeed in this Course

1. This course has a lot of reading, but not much daily homework. Try not to fall behind on reading because it will be impossible to participate in class, and it is very easy to get overwhelmingly behind.
2. Ask questions when you have them. If you have a question, it is likely someone else is wondering the same thing.
3. Take notes while reading. A lot of us have been taught not to mark up a book, but it's time to undo that mentality because annotation of texts will help you greatly when it comes to class discussion, quizzes, tests, and essays.
4. Be engaged in class. Not everyone loves to speak up in class, but you can still be present and engaged by listening to your peers and instructor, taking notes, and not using distractions (e.g. phones). We have 2.5 hours together per week – let's make the most of it.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale (%)			
94-100	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	0 - 59	F

Grade Categories and Weights

PARTICIPATION (20%):

DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (15%)

GROUP PRESENTATIONS (15%)

MIDTERM CONNECTIONS ACROSS TEXTS ESSAY (20%)

LITERATURE IN CONVERSATION PROJECT (25%)

LITERATURE IN CONVERSATION PROJECT SMALL-GROUP PRESENTATION (5%)

Major Topics and Course Schedule

Weeks 1 - 2: Modernism Framework

Weeks 3 - 5: The Lost Generation

Weeks 6 - 8: The Harlem Renaissance

Weeks 9 - 11: The South Renaissance

Weeks 11 - 15: Literature in Conversation research, drafting, one-on-one meetings, small-group presentations

USF Core Syllabus Policies

USF has a set of central policies related to student recording class sessions, academic integrity and grievances, student accessibility services, academic disruption, religious observances, academic continuity, food insecurity, pregnancy and related conditions, and sexual harassment that **apply to all courses at USF**. Be sure to review these online:

<https://www.usf.edu/provost/faculty-success/resources-policies-forms/core-syllabus-policy-statements.aspx>

Student Recordings

Florida Statute 1004.097 Free Expression on Campus

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal, educational use (USF Policy 10-048). A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the USF Student Conduct Code.

Course Policies: Grades

Attendance is imperative to you getting the most out of the course, however, I understand there are times when you will need to be absent. Outside of university-approved documented absences (see below), you will be allowed 4 absences (equal to two weeks of class) this semester without a grade deduction. I do not distinguish between excused/unexcused absences – instead, I let you choose how to use you them. I recommend saving them in case of illness, appointments that cannot be scheduled at another time, or an emergency. You do not need to provide documentation – those four “free” absences can be used for any reason. I do this out of fairness for all students because I am not deciding what is a valid excuse and what isn’t (e.g. a student may be sick but unable to see a doctor – this shouldn’t be held against them). It also is way to let you miss class without penalty should you be sick. After 4 absences, your participation grade will reduce by 10% (e.g. 5 absences equal 90% in participation, 6 absences equal 80% in participation, etc.).*

Documented Absences: The University recognizes the following as documented absences: court imposed legal obligations, jury duty, court subpoena, military duty, religious holy days, etc. See USF's Core Syllabus Guidelines for more information on religious observances. **NOTE: A doctor's note is not a documented absence – see above.**

Ongoing Medical Conditions: Students facing extenuating circumstances, such as a debilitating illness or injury (physical or mental) that inhibits them from attending class or completing assignments, should work with the appropriate on-campus organization— including Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention, Students with Disabilities Services, and Students of Concern Assistance Team (SOCAT)—which will then act as a liaison on behalf of the student and help the instructor determine appropriate action. Late work is not accepted without discussion prior to due date.

***NOTE: You cannot earn higher than a C on your final grade if you miss more than half of the class sessions (not counting University Documented Absences).**

Late Work/Missed In-Class Work

Contact me prior to submission due date if you would like to request an extension. Extensions are not possible for all assignments (e.g. if we have moved to a different unit).

Grades of "Incomplete"

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. For undergraduate courses: An "I" grade may be awarded to a student only when a small portion of the student's work is incomplete and only when the student is otherwise earning a passing grade. The time limit for removing the "I" is to be set by the instructor of the course. For undergraduate students, this time limit may not exceed two academic semesters, whether or not the student is in residence, and/or graduation, whichever comes first. For graduate students, this time limit may not exceed one academic semester. "I" grades not removed by the end of the time limit will be changed to "IF" or "IU," whichever is appropriate.

Campus Free Expression

It is fundamental to the University of South Florida's mission to support an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles, this course may involve discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive.

In the instructional setting, ideas are intended to be presented in an objective manner and not as an endorsement of what you should personally believe. "Objective" means that the idea(s) presented can be tested by critical peer review and rigorous debate, and that the idea(s) is supported by credible research.

In this course you may be asked to engage with complex ideas and to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas. Understanding and engaging with an idea does not require you to believe it or to agree with it.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Devices are only permitted for reading class texts.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Health and Wellness

Your health is a priority at the University of South Florida. We encourage members of our community to look out for each other and to reach out for help if someone is in need. If you or someone you know is in distress, please make a referral at www.usf.edu/sos so that the Student Outreach & Support can contact and provide helpful resources to the student in distress. A 24-hour licensed mental healthcare professional, offered through the counseling center, is available by phone at 813-974-2831, option 3. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

Title IX Policy

USF is committed to fostering a safe and respectful learning environment, free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment, in accordance with Title IX and USF Policy 0-004. If a student shares an experience of sexual harassment,

sexual assault, stalking, or relationship violence with a USF employee (including faculty), that employee will notify the Title IX Office. This allows the Title IX Office to send the student an email with information about support resources and options—if it is safe to do so. Students are not required to respond to this email. The Title IX Office is a private resource. Information is shared only on a need-to-know basis to provide students with support measures. To speak to a confidential resource, students may contact USF Center for Victim Advocacy at 813-974-5757. Confidential resources do not notify the Title IX Office unless the student requests it. For more information about Title IX, available resources, or to make a report, please visit www.usf.edu/title-ix.

Course Hero / Chegg Policy

The USF Policy on Academic Integrity specifies that students may not use websites that enable cheating, such as by uploading or downloading material for this purpose. This does apply specifically to Chegg.com and CourseHero.com – almost any use of these websites (including uploading proprietary materials) constitutes a violation of the academic integrity policy.

Professionalism Policy

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Turnitin.com

In this course, turnitin.com may be utilized. Turnitin is an automated system which instructors may use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit all assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the

assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Netiquette Guidelines

- Act professionally in the way you communicate. Treat your instructors and peers with respect, the same way you would do in a face-to-face environment. Respect other people's ideas and be constructive when explaining your views about points you may not agree with.
- Be sensitive. Be respectful and sensitive when sharing your ideas and opinions. There will be people in your class with different linguistic backgrounds, political and religious beliefs or other general differences.
- Proofread and check spelling. Doing this before sending an email or posting a thread on a discussion board will allow you to make sure your message is clear and thoughtful. Avoid the use of all capital letters, it can be perceived as if you are shouting, and it is more difficult to read.
- Keep your communications focused and stay on topic. Complete your ideas before changing the subject. By keeping the message on focus you allow the readers to easily get your idea or answers they are looking for.
- Be clear with your message. Avoid using humor or sarcasm. Since people can't see your expressions or hear your tone of voice, meaning can be misinterpreted.

Email and Discussion Board Guidelines

- Use the subject line effectively by using a meaningful line of what your email or discussion is about.
- Keep your emails and postings related to the course content. You should not post anything personal on a discussion board unless it is requested by the instructor.
- Any personal, course or confidential issues should be directly communicated to the instructor via email. The discussion boards are public spaces; therefore, any issues should not be posted there.

End of Semester Student Evaluations

All classes at USF make use of an online system for students to provide feedback to the University regarding the course. These surveys will be made available at the end of the semester, and the University will notify you by email when the response window opens. Your participation is highly encouraged and valued.

Food and Drink Policy (for in-campus sessions only).

Please adhere to the firm policy of no beverages (other than bottled/capped water), food, tobacco products, or like items in the classroom. Your understanding of the necessity for this policy and cooperation will be greatly appreciated. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Learning Support and Campus Offices

Academic Accommodations

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to receive academic accommodations. For additional information about academic accommodations and resources, you can visit the SAS website.

[SAS website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[SAS website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Academic Support Services

The USF Office of Student Success coordinates and promotes university-wide efforts to enhance undergraduate and graduate student success. For a comprehensive list of academic support services available to all USF students, please visit the [Office of Student Success website](#).

Canvas Technical Support

If you have technical difficulties in Canvas, you can find access to the Canvas guides and video resources in the “Canvas Help” page on the homepage of your Canvas course. You can also contact the help desk by calling 813-974-1222 in Tampa or emailing help@usf.edu.

[USF IT Services](#)

Center for Victim Advocacy

The [Center for Victim Advocacy](#) empowers survivors of crime, violence, or abuse by promoting the restoration of decision making, by advocating for their rights, and by offering support and resources. Contact information is available online.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center promotes the wellbeing of the campus community by providing culturally sensitive counseling, consultation, prevention, and training that enhances student academic and personal success. Contact information is available online.

[Counseling Center website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[Counseling Center website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Tutoring

The Tutoring Hub offers free tutoring in several subjects to USF undergraduates. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information, email asctampa@usf.edu.

[Tutoring website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[Tutoring website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is a free resource for USF undergraduate and graduate students. At the Writing Studio, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you, at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, email: writingstudio@usf.edu.

[Writing studio website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout Site.](#)

[Writing studio website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Student Ombuds Office

Florida Statute 1006.51 and Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.011 require that all public institutions provide ombuds services to students. The Student Ombuds Office at USF is a confidential, impartial, informal, and independent

resource for students experiencing challenges related to the university. Ombuds can help students safely explore options, clarify processes, and consider next steps. [Learn more or make an appointment at usf.edu/student-ombuds.](https://usf.edu/student-ombuds)