



## EN 431, Themes in American Literature: Between the Wars

FD'00  
PM

Fall Day Semester, 2000

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EN 431 course web: <http://www.edwebs.com/cham/431/fallday00>

Office Hours! MWF, 1 - 2 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m.

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Feedback: Any comments?

Your Last Name:

Your First Name:

Your Email address:

### Course Description (toc)

This course is a survey of American literature of the 1920s and 1930s. It emphasizes both poetry and fiction. For this semester, the novelists figuring most prominently are Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Willa Cather. Among the poets to be read are T.S. Eliot, H.D., ee cummings, Ezra Pound, Robert Frost. Special attention will be given to Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance. This is a uniquely poignant period of American literature because of the immense changes that were taking place financially and politically.

#### Diversity

Chaminade's "Core Beliefs Statement" says, "Students, both traditional and non-traditional, bring a variety of talents, traditions, cultures and abilities. This diversity brings a special opportunity to the Chaminade community, which can then nurture and guide each student to the fullest realization of potential." Consequently, this course encompasses readings that both reflect and examine the diversity of our literary heritage. Additionally, the course puts special attention on the problems faced by authors seeking to write from unique personal or cultural perspectives to readers who may not share the same perspectives or cultural

background.

### **Texts (toc)**

Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*

William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*

*The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*

### **Online References**

Humanities Resources: [Voice of the Shuttle](#)

[Literary Resources](#)

[Resources for Writers](#)

[Internet Public Library](#)

### **Requirements (toc)**

[Participation](#) (approximately 20%)

[Journal](#) (approximately 10%)

[Two essays](#) (approximately 20%)

[Quizzes and miscellaneous assignments](#) (approximately 10%)

[Final exam](#) (approximately 40%)

### **Participation (toc)**

The course requires regular attendance and participation in discussions. Also, each student will be required to make two presentations about the readings; one presentation may be a collaboration with another student.

### **Journal (toc)**

The journal is an informal record of participation in the course; it may include free association writing, descriptions of objects or experiences, responses to readings, other jottings or musings; 30 - 50 pages (approx. 5000 words) is required. Journals are normally kept in a conventional pen and ink notebooks. Hard copies of journals are submitted at the final exam.

[For more information about keeping your course journal, follow this link.](#)

### **Essays (toc)**

Two essays: Approximately 1800 words each. Ideally, these should be edited collections of excerpts from journals and discussions, including responses to readings or (with prior approval) creative writing. In general, essays will be evaluated with regard to clarity and creativity. .

[For more information about essay requirements, follow this link.](#)

### **Quizzes and miscellaneous assignments (toc)**

From time to time quizzes may be given in order to help students pace themselves through the course's required reading and to assist in preparation for the final exam.

Miscellaneous assignments may from time to time be added to the course study guide.

### **Final Exam (toc)**

The final exam consists to two sections. The first, "objective," section is made up of up to 25 short answer questions. The second section consists of two essay questions which will be distributed during the week prior to the exam. While the objective

section is "closed book," the essay section is "open book."

## Self-assessment and Final Grade

The final grade for the course will be determined in part by the student's self-assessment and grade estimate, which will be submitted during final exam week.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

All material submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be written by the registered student.

While students are encouraged to consult sources outside the required reading of the course, they are also responsible for clearly stating the nature of their sources. Statements of "common knowledge" are generally exempt from this scholarly requirement.

Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of someone else's ideas as your own. Plagiarism in this course will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment and possible failure for the course.

## Course Outline(toc)

### *Unit 1: August 28 - September 6*

#### *Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms*

Background on Hemingway: <http://www.simonsays.com/hemingway/bio.cfm>

Discussion Question: The terms "love" and "war" are often understood as opposites, like the terms "hero" and "coward." How has your reading of Hemingway's novel advanced your thinking about these sorts of oppositions?

Quiz 1, Due Monday, September 11

### *Unit 2: September 7 - September 18*

#### *The Roots of Modernism: Poetry by e.e. cummings, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, H.D.*

cummings, *NAMP*, 547 - 556 (for discussion: "All in green went my love riding" and "O sweet spontaneous")

- See also additional poems at [this link](#) at the Academy of American Poets site

Eliot, *NAMP*, 479 - 504 (for discussion: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", "The Waste Land")

- Most of the Eliot readings can be found at [this link](#)
- See also the [Academy of American Poets page on Eliot](#).

Pound, *NAMP*, 374 - 381, 394 - 40 (for discussion: "The River Merchant's Wife: A Letter", "A Pact", "In a Station of the Metro", "Canto II", "Sestina: Altaforte")

- See also the [Pound page at the Academy of American Poets site](#).

H.D., *NAMP*, 409 - 422 (for discussion: "Sea Rose", "Garden", "Helen")

- See also the [H.D. page at the Academy of American Poets site](#).

For further reading: [The Modernist Revolution: Make It New!](#)

Discussion Question: What is "Modern"? How were the early 20th Century literary modernists responding to historical

and technological developments?

Quiz 2, Due Wednesday, September 18

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### ***Unit 3: September 19 - September 29***

Read:

- Langston Hughes, *NAMP*, 645 - 652
- Hughes, "Cross"
- Hughes, "Dream Deferred"
- Link to the Langston Hughes web page from the Academy of American Poets

Claude McKay, *NAMP*, 516 - 519

short story by Richard Wright (class handout)

Quiz 3, Due Friday, September 29

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### ***Unit 4: September 30 - October 11***

Read: Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

Quiz 4, Due Wednesday, October 11

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### ***Unit 5: October 12 - October 23***

*Essay 1 Due*

Read: Poetry by Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams

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### ***Unit 6: October 24 - November 3***

Read: Cather, *Death Comes to the Archbishop*

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### ***Unit 7: November 4 - November 15***

Read: Poetry by Marianne Moore, Robinson Jeffers, Hart Crane, Louise Bogan, Robert Penn Warren and others

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### ***Unit 8: November 16 - November 27***

Read: Short stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Steinbeck

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### ***Unit 9: November 28 - December 8***

Review, Presentations

*Essay 2 Due*

Final Exam: To be announced, week of December 11