

**ENGL 204**  
**American Literature II**  
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

**Description**

**ENGL 204 – American Literature II:** is a course in which students examine American Literature from the Civil War to the present day, highlighting the cultural, geographic, historical, and literary influences on each work covered.

**Pre-requisites:** Successful completion of English 101 with a C or better.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. analyze works of later American literature, including both canonical and non- canonical texts and texts representative of the wide diversity of racial and ethnic cultures that comprise the American literary tradition or traditions;
2. discuss different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally defined and the ways in which these traditional literary genres have been challenged;
3. analyze recurring themes and stylistic characteristics reflected in literary works of each period;
4. analyze the ways in which the concept of an American literary tradition has reflected and supported aesthetic and ethical values associated with American culture;
5. examine changing societal values and mores of the literary era as they relate to the moral and ethical decisions of individuals;
6. assess the ways in which the selected literature contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;
7. analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature;
8. write a well-informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;
9. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic sources in essays according to the assigned formatting and style guide;
10. utilize digital resources for exploring humanities as appropriate to the academic environment; and
11. compose stylistically correct assignments using appropriate technology.

**Major Topics**

- I. Realism
- II. Naturalism
- III. Modernism
- IV. The Harlem Renaissance
- V. Postmodernism
- VI. Cultural context

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- a. Race, class, and gender in individual texts
  - b. Literary production and canon formation
- VII. Inter- and intra-textual connections
- VIII. Literary analysis

### **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- participation in weekly discussions in-class and/or online
- literary analysis essay(s) with appropriate academic sources, of at least 2500 words, one of which assesses 5 of the 7 General Education Outcomes and accounts for 10% of the overall course grade
- one exam with an essay component
- collaboration with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Arts and Humanities. One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes.

Date Revised: 2/6/2024

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