

**Instructor:** Maritza Stanchich

**Course Title:** Survey of American Literature from 1865

**Course Number:** INGL 3252

**Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 to 5:20 p.m.

**Location:** LPM 311

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in SGG 01 (in the basement, below Estudios Hispánicos), or by appointment at a more convenient time for you.

**Email:** direct urgent questions only please at [maritzastanchich@yahoo.com](mailto:maritzastanchich@yahoo.com).

**Course description:** Close readings and analysis of U.S. Literature from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onward will be conducted with particular attention to its participation in discourses of national formation as the United States expands and becomes a global imperial power. How national literature participates in managing the racial tensions and linguistic and cultural definitions of the United States (notice I avoid the name “America”) will be a major question we will ask throughout the course. Other questions we will consider are: What is a national literature and should literature be defined by the limits of a nation? How does the deemed body of national literature, or canon, change over time and how has it been radically reconsidered in the past two decades? What is the effect of studying “major” and “minor” authors? Does literature trace the histories of social movements and developments, such as women’s rights, civil rights, labor struggle, gay rights, English language imposition, immigrant and environmental activism? How do writers confront and negotiate with the state and with law in particular, over such issues?

**Text:** The Norton Anthology of American Literature, volumes C, D and E in one package, available at La Tertulia book store near campus. Please bring readings to class.

**Attendance and Punctuality:** More than three absences will result in the lowering of final grade by at least one. In the case of having three absences excused by medical or sports notes, then any one additional absence will similarly affect your grade. Grades will also be lowered by repeated tardiness.

**Participation:** Asking questions or making useful comments will strengthen your grade. However, those with shy personalities will not be penalized, and those for whom it is easier to speak publicly should be conscious of giving others a chance.

**Papers:** One five page paper, due at midterm, and to be revised and resubmitted before the class ends. Outside research of at least one source for the first paper, and two sources for the second version will be required. I will pass out guidelines as the dates approach.

**Exams:** A take home midterm and final will consist of short identifications and an essay.

**Quizzes:** Two mid-level quizzes of identifications will also be held.

**Teaching Strategies:** class meetings will consist of analytical discussion of reading assignments, and conceptual understanding of related issues. At least one film will be screened and visual aids pertaining to the issues and works will be used.

- Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimiento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Class attendance and punctuality: 10 percent

Class participation: 10 percent

Two quizzes: 30 percent (15 percent each)

First paper: 10 percent

Final paper: 20 percent

Final exam: 20 percent

- Please note: For students with disabilities, there will be differentiated methods of evaluation. Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

## **Class Calendar**

**Week 1**– Introduction

**Week 2 – Aug. 19**

Emily Dickinson’s “Wild Nights...” p. 175, “I Felt a Funeral...” p. 176, “The Soul selects...” p. 177, “Much Madness is...” p. 182, “This is my letter...” p. 182, “I heard a Fly buzz...” p. 184, “Because I could not stop...” p. 190, “Tell all the Truth...” p. 199.

**Thursday, Aug. 21**

Introduction and Timeline, pages 3-16.

Walt Whitman, from *Leaves of Grass*, “Song of Myself” (pages 37-79)

**Week 3 – Aug 26**

Native American Oratory, Cochise and Charlot. We will also examine 19<sup>th</sup> century artistic and photographic representations of indigenous in class.

**Thurs., Aug. 28**

Read Zitkala Sa, all selections, which appear a bit later in the volume  
Also The Navajo Night Chant, Chippewa Songs, Ghost Dance Songs, Wovoka

**Week 4, Sept. 2**

Henry James, The Beast in the Jungle, pp. 524-553.  
Kate Chopin, "At the 'Cadian Ball," and "The Storm."  
Henry Adams, all selections

**Thurs, Sept. 4:**

At least half of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Week 5 – Sept. 9**

Finish *Huckleberry Finn*  
Recommended: Charles Chesnutt "The Goophered Grapevine"

**Thurs, Sept. 11**

Booker T. Washington and WEB DuBois

**Week 6 – Sept. 16**

**Quiz** on all previous material. Introduction and timeline to next volume.

**Thurs., Sep. 18**

Gertrude Stein's "The Making of Americans" and excerpts from Tender Buttons  
**I will hand out paper guidelines so you can pick a topic over the weekend.**

**Week 7 – Sept. 23: No class, Grito de Lares**

**Thurs, Sept. 25**

Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," "The Gift Outright" and William Carlos Williams "The Red Wheelbarrow" and "This is Just to Say." **Turn in a short paper topic to me in writing.**

**Week 8 – Sept. 30**

Ezra Pound's "A Pact," "In a Station of the Metro," "The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter" and H.D.'s "Oread" and T.S. Eliot "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Hollow Men"

**Thurs., Oct. 2:**

Hart Crane "The Bridge"  
Langston Hughes – "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "The Weary Blues," "I, Too"  
Claude McKay – "If We Must Die"

**Week 9 – Oct. 7**

**Take home Midterm exam due in class.**

e. e. cummings – “in Just-,” “next to of course god america i,” “somewhere i have never travelled,gladly beyond”

**Thurs., Oct. 9**

F. Scott Fitzgerald “Babylon Revisted” & Ernest Hemingway “The Snows of Kilimanjaro.” Recommended: Other Hemingway stories, “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place,” “The Killers,” “The Big Two-Hearted River, Parts I and II,” “Indian Camp”

**Week 10 – Oct. 14**

**Mid-term paper due**

John Steinbeck all three chapters from *The Grapes of Wrath*

**Thurs., Oct. 16**

Begin Faulkner novel *As I Lay Dying!*

**Week 11 – Oct. 21**

Finish William Faulkner novel *As I Lay Dying*

**Thurs., Oct. 23**

**Substantial quiz** of identifications on material from midterm to now

**Week 12 – Oct. 28**

Introduction to 3<sup>rd</sup> Volume and Timeline

Ralph Ellison from *Invisible Man* “Battle Royal”

Ishmael Reed, “The Last Days of Louisiana Red.” Recommended: James Baldwin

**Thurs., Oct. 30:**

Toni Morrison’s “Recitatif”

Gwendolyn Brooks “We Real Cool,” “The White Troops Had...,” “To the Diaspora”

**Final paper guidelines will be handed out – Next week we meet in Pedreira 105A**

**Week 13 – Nov. 4**

Read David Mamet’s “Glengarry Glen Ross” for film with Al Pacino and Jack Lemmon.

Recommended films: *Death of a Salesman* with Dustin Hoffman, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Marlon Brando, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman.

Also recommended in anthology: Eugene O’Neill’s *Long Days Journey into Night*

**Thurs., Nov. 6**

Finish Glengarry Glen Ross, followed by discussion. **Paper topics due in writing.**

**Week 14 – Nov. 11:** No class, Armistice Day

**Thurs., Nov. 13**

Allen Ginsberg, from *Howl* (long poem) and **Final paper bibliographies due**

**Week 15 – Nov. 18**

Thomas Pynchon “Entropy.” Recommended: Ursula LeGuin, Raymond Carver

**Thurs, Nov. 20**

Sylvia Plath’s “Daddy” and Audre Lorde, all selections

Recommended: Anne Sexton, Lorine Niedecker, Robert Creeley, George Oppen, Charles Olson, Gary Snyder, Joy Harjo, Rita Dove, Lorna Dee Cervantes

**Week 16 – Nov. 25: Final papers due! Will hand out take home final exam.**

N. Scott Momaday, all selections

Gloria Anzaldua, “La conciencia de la Mestiza” and “How to Tame a Wild Tongue”

Recommend: Leslie Marmon Silko, Louise Erdrich, Sandra Cisneros, Judith Ortiz Cofer

**Thurs., Nov. 27 – No Class, Thanksgiving**

**Week 17 – Dec. 2: Take home final due in class. Wrap up.**