

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number: ENG 242**

**Credits: 3**

**Course Title: Survey of American Literature II**

**Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Examines American literary works from colonial times to the present, emphasizes the ideas and characteristics of our national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 242 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. Prerequisite: ENG 111 and ENG 112 or approval by the English program head. ENG 241 and 242 may be taken out of order. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

ENG 242 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of American literature of from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including Realism, Modernism and Postmodernism. As a writing intensive course, ENG 242 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have produced at least 12–15 pages of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and 12–15 pages of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

ENG 111 and ENG 112 or approval by the English program head. ENG 241 and 242 may be taken out of order.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Examine a text closely, demonstrating this skill in their reading, writing, and speaking critically about literary texts;
- b. Understand the growth of distinctive American literary themes in poetry, fiction, drama, and non-fiction;
- c. Understand American contributions to the development of literary techniques and innovations;
- d. Understand the shaping of American cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- e. Understand the relationship between literature and the culture that produces it.

**Major Topics to be Included**

Readings of texts reflecting literature produced during the:

- a. Post-Civil War period, roughly 1865 through the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students may expect to study literature in the realistic and naturalistic traditions and to examine authors' various responses to the question of the "American" self.
- b. Modern period, about 1910 through 1945. Students may expect to study literature in the modernist tradition and to examine authors' responses to the issues of authority, form, and fiction in the development of America's literary tradition.
- c. Contemporary period, from post-WWII period through the present. Students may expect to examine literature responding to a variety of social, political, gender, racial, and class issues and to address questions of tradition and canonicity in the continuing development of America's literary tradition.

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** February 13, 2009