



Dr. Fynboe – AML2010 SYLLABUS – SAMPLE

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Course Overview

AML2010 is a literature course where students read and discuss selected creative works of North American writing before 1865. In addition, students write a documented research paper and take part in group discussions.

Course Theme

Today, The United States is thought of as a global powerhouse of literature. However, that was not always the case. When the nation was founded in the 18th century, there was no “American literature.” So how did it happen? How did we get here? This semester, we are going to explore those questions by reading and discussing authors and works from five specific time periods (Pre-colonial, Puritan, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and early Realism). We will try to pinpoint when the country found its own, unique voice.

Course Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of literary analysis and interpretation.
- Demonstrate proper use and interpretation of literary terminology in fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry.
- Analyze texts to determine subject, audience, style, tone and purpose.
- Write critical MLA-style essays relative to the literature read during the course-- interpreting, critiquing and critically thinking during close reading of the texts assigned.
- Identify major writers and their influences to understand the significance of literature in the human experience.
- Analyze the characteristics of a particular literary work.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the analysis of key values and ideas presented in areas such as philosophy, history, information literacy, literature, music, theatre, visual arts, and religious studies.

Course Resources

REQUIRED Textbook(s) - (available at IRSC bookstore)

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 8th Edition: Volumes A and B

Resources:

For Modern Language Association (MLA) assistance, refer to <http://irsc.libguides.com/MLA>.

All additional resources will be referenced in the course modules on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional modules/ units. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

Grades and Grading Scale

Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	78-70
D	69-60
F	59 and below

Items	Weight
Learning Journals	20%
Discussion Boards	20%
Worksheets	20%
Essays	40%
	100%

Learning Journals

You will write brief responses related to assigned readings and study activities. Read each journal prompt thoroughly and answer all questions asked. Quote and cite specific evidence from the literary work(s) whenever possible. See the Schedule of Activities for due dates.

Discussion Boards

You will also write brief responses related to assigned readings as then post these responses on a shared Discussion Board post. Craft your thoughts and proofread them in word processing software before posting it to the Discussion Board post. Make sure to read each prompt thoroughly, and answer all questions asked. Quote and cite specific evidence from the literary work(s) whenever possible. Once students have posted to the Discussion Board, each student will comment on another student's post. See the Schedule of Activities for due dates.

Worksheets

Students will practice essential writing skills via worksheets before using these skills in their essays. Examples include the submission of Planning Worksheets before students write each essay and are designed to help students plan their essays before each essay is due. See the Schedule of Activities for due dates.

Essay #1 and Essay #2 Assignments

Students will write two essays for this course based on assigned readings and other course materials. Specific instructions for each document are provided in the modules under the Content link. See the Schedule of Activities for due dates, essay instruction modules, and submission locations for each essay. Students will submit essays via Blackboard. Detailed instructions are provided below. Contact your instructor well in advance of essay due dates if you have questions related to these assignments.

Attendance

The framework of this course demands that you attend class regularly. Students who accumulate three unexcused absences over the course of the semester will automatically lose five points (a half-letter) on their final grade. More than three absences will result a ten-point (full-letter) deduction on your final grade. Excessive absences will result in you failing the course outright.

This class is rigorous, so decide to take or not take the course now. I do not offer an instructor's withdrawal.

Course Guidelines

Assignment Submissions

- **Late or Missed Assignments:** Late work, even if it is only late by a couple of minutes, will automatically lose ten points per day beginning the day it is due (up to max. point deduction of 30 points).
- All worksheets and essays must be submitted as Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) attachments. **DO NOT SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS AS APPLE "PAGES"**
- Learning Journals and Discussion Boards utilize text boxes that students must type in; please do not upload documents for Learning Journals and Discussion Boards.
- If you use a **Chromebook or Google Documents**, you must export your assignment into Microsoft Word format before you upload it to Blackboard. Instructions:
 - Click File < Export < Microsoft Word. The converted file will download to your default downloads folder (usually called Downloads).
 - Please upload the file to Blackboard from your Downloads folder (instructions below).
- If you use **Pages** on a Mac, iPad, or iPhone, you must export your assignment into Microsoft Word format. Instructions:
 - Click File < Export To < Word
 - DO NOT check the box labelled require password to open
 - Choose the location where you would like to save the exported file and click Export.
 - Please upload this exported file to Blackboard (instructions below).

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Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will make every effort to provide feedback on assignments within 7 to 14 days.

Accessing Grades

Students can all access all grades and graded assignments through the My Grades link in the course site control panel.

Communicating with the Instructor

When questions arise during this course, please remember to check these two sources for an answer:

1. Course Syllabus
2. Announcements in Blackboard

If you cannot find an answer to your question, please contact the instructor. Additionally, please allow 24 - 48 hours for the instructor to respond.

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Culture of Respect

Students are expected to engage with the course material with care and to engage with fellow students with respect and empathy. Instructors will work to ensure a constructive and thoughtful learning environment that encourages authentic and productive interactions with the material and each other.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of theft. It means presenting the work of someone else as if it were your own. Plagiarism is a serious violation and is not tolerated at IRSC. Plagiarized papers earn the grade of "F" (zero) and may result in additional student discipline.

About our Readings

Literature is not "G" rated and some of our readings this semester may deal with uncomfortable topics, including (but not limited to) physical, psychological, domestic, or sexual violence, poverty, racism, and drug/alcohol abuse. Additionally, some pieces may contain strong language, including derogatory, racially charged words. This classroom is a space where I both welcome and encourage open, courteous and respectful discussion about the issues our texts raise. I recognize, though, that some of these topics may trouble some readers. If you are bothered by a text's contents, I urge you to speak with me outside of class.

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IRSC Resources

More information about Indian River State College's resources and policies are available on the college website, which can be accessed through the Institutional Resources section of the course. Topics include:

- MyPioneerPortal – Register for classes, view grades and financial aid awards
- Student Handbook & Student Handbook Reference Guide
- Advising
- Academic Calendar
- Academic Support Center
- Academic Notice/Deficiency/Suspension
- Course Catalog
- Drop/Add
- Equity Statement
- Financial Aid
- Graduation
- Incomplete Grade
- IRSC Mission Statement
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Activities
- Student Support Services
- Testing Services
- Assessment/Examination Policy
- Transcripts
- Update Personal Information
- Withdrawal Policy

Library & Research Paper Resources

Quick links to the Indian River State College's Library and Research Paper Resources can be found in the Institutional Resources section in Blackboard. Quick links include:

- Library Link
- Course Specific Custom Library Guides
- Ask the Librarian (24/7)
- American Psychological Association Tutorial
- APA Guidelines
- MLA Guidelines
- CSE Guidelines
- Legal Citation
- Plagiarism Policy
- Writing a Research Paper

Technical Requirements

Course Specific Technology Requirements

None.

Course Guidelines

Information about how to succeed in an online course can be found in the Institutional Resources section under Course Guidelines. Quick links include:

- Studying and Time Management
- Essential Technical Skills Checklist
- How to Succeed in an Online Course

IRSC Computer Requirements

Students must have a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the course. Quick links to the Indian River State College's Blackboard Technical Information can be found in the Institutional Resources section in Blackboard. Quick links include:

- Blackboard Mobile App
- Browser Support

Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS)

If you need assistance with Blackboard, please review the Blackboard Help Videos by clicking on the link provided on the course menu.

Note: The preferred browsers are Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox.

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Student Accessibility Statement

Indian River State College provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Office. The rights of students with disabilities which pertain to post-secondary education are provided under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Students who wish to request an accommodation for a documented disability may contact Student Accessibility Services at 772-462-7808, 772-462-7782, or e-mail accessibilityservices@irsc.edu

On-line and Hybrid Course DoE Statement

Students should expect to have regular and substantive interactions that enhances their learning throughout the online experience in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education. Such assignments will be labeled with an **(RSI)** designator in the Schedule of Activities.

Student Services

Indian River State College and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. IRSC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex (pregnancy), religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or genetic information in its programs and activities. If you have encountered any form of discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator. If you report such an incident of misconduct to a faculty member, that faculty member is required by law to notify IRSC's Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, harassed or assaulted, the following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination, non-harassment policies: