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| Course Title | Topics in American Literature | | Instructor(s) | Dr. Gregory Dunne | |
| E-mail | [gdunne@miyazaki-mic.ac.jp](mailto:gdunne@miyazaki-mic.ac.jp) | |
| Class Style | Lecture | | Office Hours | **Dunne:** 4th Period on Tuesday and Friday and by appointment | |
| Track | English Education (TC) | | Mode of Instruction | Solo | |
| Credits | 3 | | Allocated Year | Spring: 3rd and 4th year | |
| Active Learning | Category 4 – (1): Interactive Lectures  Category 4 – (7): Spoken summaries/  paraphrases  Category 1 – (1): Self-assessment  Category 4 – (9): Pair and groups work | | Compulsory or Elective | Elective for TC track | |
| Course Overview | This course examines various themes, approaches, and genres in American literature, and relates this literature to its historical, cultural, and social context. We will explore the literature of the early twentieth century. We will read one complete novel, a novel that is considered to be one of the greatest works of American literature, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.  We will explore the novel critically, asking questions about the characters in the novel, their motivations, as well as questions concerning the structure of the story, the language used within the story, and the plot of the story. We will examine these various elements and attempt to interpret meaning from the work as a whole. In addition to the novel, we will read some historical essays on the period, and additional works of literature (short stories, essays, and poems).  The class will provide you with extensive reading opportunities, and with plenty of time for discussion. It will also provide you with the opportunity *to write often* and to reflect upon what you have read in your journals. In reading literary texts, you will have the opportunity to develop your vocabulary and practice critical thinking skills such as summarizing texts, analyzing them, and interpreting them for meaning. | | | | |
| Course  Objectives | * to help students understand and appreciation the social, cultural, and historical elements at play within the American culture during the early twentieth century and how those forces contributed to and influenced the nation’s literature during this period. * to teach students how to critical interpret literary texts through the exploration of the various elements contained within the texts: plot, character, figurative language, setting, voice, etc. * to help students **enjoy** the reading, discussing, and writing about American literature. * to develop and refine the students’ **overall proficiency** in English: reading skills, writing skills, listening skills, critical thinking (analytic) skills, and speaking/discussion skills. | | | | |
| Prerequisite | None | | | | |
| **Course**  **Schedule** | No | Contents | | | Homework |
| 1 | Introduction to the Class “The Lost Generation” | | | Read the text and answer study questions. |
| 2 | The 1920s: “A Burst of American Art” | | | Check the vocabulary |
| 3 | Chapter 1: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Read the text and answer study questions. |
| 4 | Chapter 2: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Check the vocabulary  Prepare for Quiz |
| 5 | Chapter 3: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Read the text and answer study questions. |
| 6 | Chapter 4: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Check Vocabulary  Read text and answer study questions |
| 7 | Chapter 5: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Read text and answer comprehension questions.  Essay writing (Interpretation) |
| 8 | Chapter 6: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Essay writing continues (Interpretation) |
| 9 | Chapter 7: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Read text and answer comprehension questions.  Response writing |
| 10 | Chapter 8: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Check vocabulary and comprehension |
| 11 | Chapter 9: *The Great Gatsby* | | | Read text and answer study questions |
| 12 | American Modernism in Poetry | | | Response writing |
| 13 | The Poetry of Robert Frost (1923) | | | Essay writing |
| 14 | The Poetry of Robert Frost (1923) | | | Read text and answer comprehension questions. |
| 15 | The Poetry of Robert Frost (1923) | | | Read text and answer comprehension questions. |
| 16 | The Harlem Renaissance | | | Check vocabulary and comprehension |
| 17 | The Poetry of Langston Hughes | | | Read text and answer comprehension questions. |
| 18 | The Poetry of Langston Hughes | | | Read text and answer study questions |
| 19 | The Poetry of Gwendolyn Bennett | | | Essay Writing: |
| 20 | The Poetry of William Carlos Williams | | | Read text and answer study questions |
| 21 | The Poetry of William Carlos Williams | | | Check vocabulary |
| 22 | The Poetry of Marianne Moore | | | Read text and answer study questions |
| 23 | The Poetry of Marianne Moore | | | Check vocabulary |
| 24 | The Literature of the American West During the 1920s | | | Review notes on the lecture and answer questions |
| 25 | Grace Stone Coates, Short Story “Wild Plums” | | | Read text and answer study questions |
| 26 | Grace Stone Coates, “Wild Plums” | | | Check vocabulary and comprehension. |
| 27 | Grace Stone Coates, “Wild Plums” | | | Read text and answer study questions |
| 28 | Willa Cather, Short Story | | | Check vocabulary  Response writing |
| 29 | Willa Cather, Short Story | | | Answering comprehension questions |
| 30 | Review | | | Preparing for final exam |
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| Grading | Grades will be determined as follows:  Writing 20%: Quizzes 15%: Homework 15%: Exams 25%: Oral Activities (recitations and presentation) 10%:  Readers Journal 15% | | | | |
| Textbooks | *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  Oxford University Press, USA; New edition (September 29, 2014)  ISBN-10: ‎ 0199536406 | | | | |
| References |  | | | | |
| NOTES |  | | | | |