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Fall 9-1-2000

### ENLT 323.03: The American Novel

Brady Harrison

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## ENGLISH 323: THE AMERICAN NOVEL

Dr. Harrison  
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Hours: M & W 4:00-5:00, & by appointment

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Davis, Rebecca Harding. *Life in the Iron Mills*. (Bedford)  
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. (Vintage)  
Erdrich, Louise. *Love Medicine*. New and Expanded Version. (HarperPerennial)  
Hemingway, Ernest. *The Sun Also Rises*. (Scribner's)  
McCarthy, Cormac. *Blood Meridian*. (Vintage)  
Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick*. (Penguin Classics)  
Robinson, Marilynne. *Housekeeping*. (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)

### REQUIRED OF ALL ENGLISH MAJORS/MINORS

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*. (Bedford)  
Murfin, Ross, & Supryia M. Ray. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical & Literary Terms* (Bedford)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 323 examines a limited number of extraordinary American novels in their historical, cultural, and especially literary contexts. We'll explore literary movements such as romanticism, realism, naturalism, modernism, and postmodernism, and trace the lineages and disjunctions between these movements. As the course progresses, we'll also have opportunities to discuss different critical theories and apply them to the primary texts.

### COURSE GOALS

This course aims to deepen your knowledge and skills in the following areas:

1. American Literary History (with a particular focus on major literary movements);
2. Critical Theory (this is a course in applied literary theory);
3. Close Reading/Interpretation (strategies for reading well/for intelligent interpretation);
4. Critical Terminology (a focus on formal elements and key terms);
5. Scholarly Writing (strategies for writing smart, effective essays).

## GRADING

Essay #1 (6+ pages):	25%
Essay #2 (6+ pages):	25%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Participation:	10%

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course includes two kinds of writing assignments: essays and exams. Please note that you must complete all written work to pass English 323. Essays will be deducted one letter grade for each class period they are late.

Since the course involves informed discussion of the readings, attendance and participation are crucial: more than three absences may result in the lowering of your final grade. Excessive absences: you fail.

## SYLLABUS

W Sept 6:	Introduction
F Sept 8:	Davis 38-74 **Essay 1 Assigned**
M Sept 11:	Davis 38-74 (cont.), 3-37, 75-83, 88-92
W Sept 13:	Davis 189-208, 292-299, 343-362
F Sept 15:	Melville xxxiii (facsimile of original title page)-75
M Sept 18:	Melville 76-157
W Sept 20:	Melville 158-235
F Sept 22:	Melville 236-314
M Sept 25:	Melville 315-394
W Sept 27:	Melville 395-475
F Sept 29:	Melville 476-556
M Oct 2:	Melville 557-625
W Oct 4:	TBA
F Oct 6:	Hemingway 3-72 **Essay 1 Due**
M Oct 9:	Hemingway 73-130
W Oct 11:	Hemingway 131-191
F Oct 13:	Hemingway 192-251

M Oct 16: \*\*Midterm Exam\*\*  
W Oct 18: Ellison 1-83  
F Oct 20: Ellison 84-171

M Oct 23: Ellison 172-255  
\*\*Essay 2 Assigned\*\*  
W Oct 25: Ellison 256-332  
F Oct 27: Ellison 333-416

M Oct 30: Ellison 417-500  
W Nov 1: Ellison 501-581  
F Nov 3: Erdrich 1-67

M Nov 6: Erdrich 68-145  
W Nov 8: Erdrich 146-211  
F Nov 10: \*\*No Class: Veteran's Day\*\*

M Nov 13: Erdrich 212-297  
W Nov 15: \*\*No Class: Screening of *Incident at Oglala*. 7:00-9:00 p.m.\*\*  
F Nov 17: Erdrich 298-367

M Nov 20: McCarthy Inscriptions-66  
W Nov 22: \*\*No Class: Travel Day\*\*  
F Nov 24: \*\*No Class: Columbus Day Exchange\*\*

M Nov 27: McCarthy 66-135  
W Nov 29: McCarthy 136-203  
F Dec 1: McCarthy 204-270

M Dec 4: McCarthy 270-337  
W Dec 6: TBA  
F Dec 8: Robinson 1-59  
\*\*Essay 2 Due\*\*

M Dec 11: Robinson 60-108  
W Dec 13: Robinson 109-160  
F Dec 15: Robinson 160-219