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**ENGL 3340 - 002**

**#RemixingTheAmericanDream**

**Spring 2017**

**Class Meetings:** MWF, 210 Preston Hall (PH), 11:00 – 11:50 PM

Instructor: Dr. Kenton Rambsy **Office Number:** 413 Carlisle

Email: kenton.rambsy@uta.edu

**Office Hours:**

Mon & Wed 10:00 - 10:50 AM/12:00 – 12:50 PM

And, by appointment

**Course Description:** In “Remixing the American Dream: History of American Literature,” we will explore a range of authors and works, both canonical and less well-known, illustrating the diversity of perspectives and kinds of writing produced in what is now the United States. Students will gain experience analyzing stylistics features of literary texts and making connections between a diverse cast of American artists. We will read the works of mainstream American writers alongside those who represent more marginalized perspectives, exploring shifting ideas of cultural identity and national belonging.

**The main objectives will involve developing:**

* Explain the meanings of American literary texts.
* Define and apply critical and literary terms.
* Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception and interpretation of texts.

**Grading Criteria**

**30% — Daily Grade**

**30% — Quizzes**

**30% — Writing Assignment**

**(Due Dates: Feb. 10, Feb. 24, Mar. 10, Apr. 7)**

**10% — Final (Due Date: May 3)**

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 **Total 100%**

**Grade Descriptions**

**\* 30% — Daily Grade**

* Because this is a discussion course, that covers topics in American literature, class attendance is mandatory to fully master concepts.

**\*30% — Quizzes**

* Every week, there will be at least two quizzes given at the beginning of each class. The 10 – 20 question quizzes will cover basic information from the day’s reading such as author biographical information and story content. If you are absent or tardy, you will not be able to make up the quiz.

**\* 30% — Writing Assignments *(Due* Feb. 17, Mar. 3, Mar. 24, Apr. 14***)*

* For each assignment, you will compose one paragraph that responds to a specific prompt:
	+ Feb. 17, Mar. 3, Mar. 24 - Perform a close read of a single text we’ve read in class up to this point by highlighting poetic devices the writer incorporates in his or her text and providing an overview of the writer’s style
	+ Apr. 14- Write a one-paragraph overview of a specific literary period in American history. Describe the key characteristics of literary style during the period, list three writers, identify three texts published during this time, describe the overall significance of the period.

**\*10% — Final (Due Date: May 3)**

* For the final project, you will complete an individual portion of a group project. See the next page for descriptions for each group.

**Final Projects – Group Breakdowns**

**#1 Digital Literary History Timeline (1865 – 1900)**

**#2 Digital Literary History Timeline (1901 – 1920)**

**#3 Digital Literary History Timeline (1921 – 1940)**

**#4 Digital Literary History Timeline (1941 – 1960)**

**#5 Digital Literary History Timeline (1961 – 1980)**

Each group will be responsible for creating a timeline that has 200 points related to American literary history from 1850 – 1975. This will serve as a supplement to those studying the broad parameters of American literature and the contributions of writers to the overall artistic culture. Every date on the timeline will be annotated and provide a link to an additional resource about the date.

**#6 Website Production –** This group will construct and upload all content for the final project using the Wix website platform. This group will be responsible for the layout such as gathering the necessary images as well as uploading texts & data visualizations to the site. Group members will be responsible for offering technological tips for the overall project.

**Reading Schedule**

**Week 1: Class Introduction**

W: Jan – 18 (First Day of Classes)

F: Jan- 20- [American Literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_literature) on Wikipedia

**Week 2: Literary Devices**

M: Jan. 23—[Close Read of a Literary Passage](https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/reading_lit.html)

W: Jan. 25— Poetic Devices

F: Jan- 27: Review poetics devices and how to perform a close read

**Week 3: Slavery & Reconstruction Pt. 1**

M: Jan- 30 – Frederick Douglass— [“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”](http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/what-to-the-slave-is-the-fourth-of-july/)

W: Feb. 1 - Sojourner Truth—[“Ain’t I a Woman”](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/sojtruth-woman.asp)

F: Feb. 3 - Joel Chandler Harris— [“The Wonderful Tar Baby Story” & “How Mr. Rabbit was too Sharp for Mr. Fox”](http://www.en.utexas.edu/amlit/amlitprivate/texts/remus.htm)

**Week 4: Slavery & Reconstruction Pt. 2**

M: Feb. 6 – Walt Whitman—[“Song of Myself”](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/45477) (1-6)

W: Feb. 8- Charles Chesnutt—“[The Passing of Grandison](https://americanliterature.com/author/charles-w-chesnutt/short-story/the-passing-of-grandison)”

F: Feb. 10- Kate Chopin—“[The Yellow Wall- Paper”](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/theliteratureofprescription/exhibitionAssets/digitalDocs/The-Yellow-Wall-Paper.pdf)

**Week 5: Slavery & Reconstruction Pt. 3**

M: Feb. 13- Alice Moore Dunbar Nelson— “[I Sit and Sew](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/52759),” “[If I Had Known](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/52633),”

W: Feb. 15- Mark Twain – “[The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Updated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Battle_Hymn_of_the_Republic%2C_Updated)”

F: Feb. 17- Theodore Roosevelt - “[The Man with the Muck-rake](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/teddyrooseveltmuckrake.htm)”

**(Writing Assignment #1 Due)**

**Week 6: Week 5: Modernism & The Harlem Renaissance Pt. 1**

M: Feb- 20 (No Class)

W: Feb. 22—Ezra Pound—“[A Few Don’ts by an Imagist](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/articles/detail/58900)”

F: Feb. 24 T.S. Eliot—“[The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/detail/44212)”

**Week 7: Modernism & The Harlem Renaissance Pt. 2**

M: Feb. 27- Claude McKay—“[If We Must Die](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/44694)”/”[The Lynching](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/56983)”

W: Mar. 1- Langston Hughes—“[Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”](http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/g_l/hughes/mountain.htm)

F: Mar. 3- Zora Neale Hurston—“[Sweat](http://wwwi.mcpherson.edu/~claryb/en255/handouts/sweat.pdf)”

**(Writing Assignment #2 Due)**

**Week 8: Modernism & The Harlem Renaissance Pt. 3**

M: Mar. 6- Virginia Woolf—“[A Haunted House](http://www.bartleby.com/85/1.html)”

W: Mar. 8- William Faulkner—“[That Evening Sun Go Down](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/white/anthology/faulkner.html)”

F: Mar. 10- (No Class)

**Week 9: Spring Break**

M: Mar. 13 – Spring Break

W: Mar. 15 – Spring Break

F: Mar. 17 – Spring Break

**Week 10: Post Modernism (Civil Rights & Protest) Pt. 1**

M: Mar. 20- Margaret Walker- “[For My People](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/detail/21850)”

W: Mar. 22- Allen Ginsburg—“[Howl](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/49303)”

F: Mar. 24- James Baldwin—“[Notes of a Native Son](http://www.csudh.edu/ccauthen/570f15/baldwin.pdf)”

**(Writing Assignment #3 Due)**

**Week 11: Post Modernism (Civil Rights & Protest) Pt. 2**

M: Mar. 27- MLK “[I Have a Dream](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm)”

W: Mar. 29- Fannie Lou Hamer- “[Testimony Before the Credentials Committee, DNConvention](http://www.tolerance.org/supplement/fannie-lou-hamer-s-testimony-1964-democratic-convention-tran)”

F: Mar. 31- Flannery O'Connor- “[Everything That Rises Must Converge](https://thomasaquinas.edu/pdfs/alumni/everything-that-rises.pdf)”

**Week 12: Group Meetings**

M: Apr. 3- Pick Groups for Final

W: Apr. 5 – No Class

F: Apr. 7 – No Class

**Week 13: Black Arts Movement**

M: Apr. 10 – Amiri Baraka- “[Black Art](http://asuddenline.tumblr.com/post/73215457454/black-art-amiri-baraka-poems-are-bullshit)”

W: Apr. 12 – Nikki Giovanni— “[Ego Tripping](https://genius.com/Nikki-giovanni-ego-tripping-there-may-be-a-reason-annotated)”

F: Apr. 14 – Toni Cade Bambara—“[The Lesson](http://www.iupui.edu/~l105onln/docs/The_Lesson.pdf)”

**(Writing Assignment #4 Due)**

**Week 14: Contemporary**

M: Apr. 17- Toni Morrison –“[Sweetness](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/02/09/sweetness-2)”

W: Apr. 19 – [Barack Obama’s Speech on Race](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88478467)

F: Apr. 21- Is rap poetry?

**Week 15: Work on Class Final**

M: Apr. 24 – Group Meeting

W: Apr. 26 – Group Meeting

F: Apr. 28 – Group Meeting

**Week 16: Final Week of Class**

M: May 1-Group Meeting

W: May 3- Group Meeting

F: May 5 (Last Day of Classes)

**Classroom Policies**

**Civility Statement:** I enjoy student ideas and welcome them! Comments, questions, and opinions about the topics covered in class are encouraged, but please be mindful to express yourself using respectful and appropriate language. We would like to maintain a constructive learning environment. Therefore, no one is permitted to make offensive, intimidating, or malicious comments or behave in a disruptive manner. Additionally, the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices will not be tolerated. Thank you in advance for adhering to the policy.

**Attendance Policy:** Because this course is a discussion course and the work we do in the class is designed to help you understand the reading and improve your writing, you must attend class.

To be excused, you must present sufficient documentation. Approved forms of documentation include medical excuses, police records, and documentation of funeral attendance. Of course, you are excused from class for religious holidays. If you are a member of a group that travels on behalf of the University (intramural teams are non-applicable), you must provide a letter from your coach or director along with a schedule of the classes you will miss due to travel.

**Late Work:** In the event that you are absent, you are STILL RESPONSIBLE for turning in all work by the dates listed on the syllabus. Unless we have made other plans together, in advance of the absence or missed assignment, I will not accept late work, so I encourage you to make arrangements with a classmate to submit any assignments if you will be absent.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations: UT** Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).** Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*. For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In ***Quick Hits*** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at [http://uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com/). Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information.