NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ENG 242 – SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE II (3 CR.)

Course Description

Examines American literary works from the Civil War to the present, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of our national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

ENG 242 will provide students with a grasp of the ideas, themes, and characteristics of American literature from the Civil War to the present and help them to develop an awareness of the historical, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic contexts that shaped American culture.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisite ENG 112 or ENG 125 or equivalent or division approval.

Course Objectives

GOAL ONE: Analysis and appreciation of literature
ENG 242 students will improve their ability to analyze literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

• show how their critical reading, thinking, and writing skills have improved by studying a selection of American literary genres;
• use literary terminology to evaluate works of literature;
• acknowledge the timeless nature of classic works of art and the impact they continue to have regarding the human experience.

GOAL TWO: Relevance of literature to culture
ENG 242 will demonstrate the connections between a culture and the literature it produces. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

• study literary texts for content, structure, and style unique to the time of creation;
• illustrate and explore the ways that American literature connects to American and world history.

GOAL THREE: Characteristics of American literature
ENG 242 will introduce students to the specific forms and conventions of American literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

• identify and explain the literary characteristics of writings by American authors from the Civil War to the present;
• discuss how American literature examines issues of Americana, for example the American Dream, immigration and assimilation, and the consequences of race, gender, and religion.

Major Topics to be Included
American Realism: Twain, Howells
Local color
Naturalism: Crane, Chopin, Dreiser
Hemingway, Faulkner, Fitzgerald
Modernist poetry
Modern drama
Contemporary writers