ENG 304 American Literature and Culture
Wintermester 2018

Number of Credits
3

Instructor
Megan Cannella

Catalog Description
Selected subjects in American literature and culture, emphasizing pluralism and cultural diversity. (Diversity course.) Designed for non-English majors.

Prereq(s): CH 202; CH 203.

Required Textbooks/Materials
A mix of contemporary and classic American texts will be explored in this class. While the required texts have not been chosen yet, students should expect to read texts like Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home* and Angie Thomas’ *The Hate U Give*, alongside classics by Flannery O’Connor, Ernest Hemingway, Kate Chopin, and more.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- use writing as a tool for communicating about, organizing, and understanding literary readings;
- relate literary works to their cultural or historical contexts;
- describe different possible interpretations of a given work of literature;
- analyze texts with attention to thematic content and formal or stylistic choices;
- distinguish and discuss the features of different genres and their conventions; and
- articulate patterns and problems in American literature and culture, specifically those related to pluralism and diversity.

Course Details
This class will explore the ways in which American literature and culture have changed in the twenty-first century. We will work through questions like: What defines American literature? How have these defining characteristics been represented in the past? How are they represented in the twenty-first century? What do these changes in representation tell us about contemporary American literature and culture?

Assignments will largely consist of short papers and informal presentations as we explore the topics and goals of the class.