

**American Literature**  
Spring 2019 Syllabus

**Texts:**

*Adventures in American Literature* (AAL, textbook)  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

**Assignment Prior to First Co-Op:**

- (1) Read a novel from the American Literature Novel Choice List
- (2) Prepare for Presentation at first co-op

**January 25 - Presentation Day**

Student presentations of American Literature Novel Project

**Assignment (due February 1)**

Read the biographical information on Bret Harte (p. 340) and *The Outcasts of Poker Flat* (pp. 341-348).  
Complete questions on the sheet distributed in class.

Read the biographical information on Stephen Crane (pp. 391-392).

Read *The Open Boat* by Stephen Crane. (This is not in your textbook.)

Use this link to read the story online. <http://www.online-literature.com/crane/2544/>

Complete questions on the sheet distributed in class.

**February 1 - Regionalism and Realism**

Discuss Bret Harte and *The Outcasts of Poker Flat* and *The Open Boat* by Stephen Crane

**Assignment (due February 8)**

Read the biographical information on Stephen Vincent Benét (p. 588) and

*The Devil and Daniel Webster* (pp. 589-598).

Complete questions on the sheet distributed in class.

Read the biographical information on Shirley Jackson (p. 605) and *The Lottery* (pp. 606-611).

Complete questions on the sheet distributed in class.

**February 8 - Realism Part #2**

Discuss *The Devil and Daniel Webster* by Stephen Vincent Benét and

*The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson

**Assignment (due February 15)**

Read Chapters 1-8 of *TKAM* and complete study guide questions. These will be due for the next class.

**February 15 - To Kill a Mockingbird Part #1**

**Assignment (due March 1)**

Read Chapters 9-19 of *TKAM* and complete study guide questions. These will be due for the next class.

**March 1 - To Kill a Mockingbird Part #2**

**Assignment (due March 8)**

Read Chapters 20-23 of *TKAM* and complete study guide questions. These will be due for the next class.

**March 8 - To Kill a Mockingbird Part #3****Assignment (due March 15)**

Read Chapters 24-27 of *TKAM* and complete study guide questions. These will be due for the next class.

**March 15 - To Kill a Mockingbird Part #4****Final Discussion****Assignment of 5 paragraph essay****Assignment (due Wednesday, March 20)**

Send an outline for your 5 paragraph essay by email.

**Assignment (due Monday, April 1)**

Complete 5 paragraph essay and send by email.

**Assignment (due April 12)**

Read and/or watch *Our Town* (AAL, pp. 755-781, 791-800). On YouTube, search for “Our Town Paul Newman” to watch the version starring Paul Newman who was nominated for two awards for his performance in this version. This is a faithful but not exact adaptation, so be aware of that if you follow along with the text as you watch.

Complete take home quiz. Be ready for an in class writing assignment.

**April 12 - Modern drama: *Our Town* Discussion****Assignment (due April 26)**

Read the background information on Robert Frost (p. 613-614) and *The Road Not Taken* (p.615).

Read the background information on Carl Sandburg (p. 626-627) and *Grass* (p. 628).

Read the background information on E. E. Cummings (p. 635-636) and his poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)] at this link.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/49493/i-carry-your-heart-with-me-i-carry-it-in>

Look through the paintings on page 641-646 as well as *Nighthawks* by Edward Hopper.

<https://www.edwardhopper.net/nighthawks.jsp>

Complete questions on the sheet distributed in class.

**April 26 - Modern Poetry****Assignment (due May 3)**

- (1) Choose a short story from the Additional Stories in American Literature List
- (2) Prepare for an informal presentation at the last co-op

**May 3 - Short Story Presentations and Review Day**