



English 2235

American Literature

“[D]iscover that the work of the New World is not ended, but only fairly begun.” — Walt Whitman, *Democratic Vistas*

English 2235 explores some of the best and most influential works of American literature in a variety of genres, including the captivity narrative, the fugitive slave narrative, gothic fiction, naturalism, and modernism. Students will learn about major literary movements in American history. But they will also read books that have been, and sometimes continued to be, deeply controversial—books that have nonetheless helped shape U.S. culture.

Along with an understanding of American literary history, students will come away with a more informed and comprehensive awareness of American identity, which is currently being hotly, and sometimes violently, debated. For those who want a foundational knowledge of American literature, who want to make sense of America’s sometimes violent conflicts, or who want to understand the country’s deep contradictions, including how such a divided nation could elect both Barack Obama and Donald Trump within the same decade, this course is for you.

Term: Fall 2026

Days: Tues & Thurs.

Time: 10:30-12:20

Instructor:

Simon Rolston

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English 2236 – Creative Writing: Prose Fiction

The “secret” to becoming a better writer is to read broadly and write regularly. We’ll read stories to understand how they operate and to analyze the decisions their authors made to take them from good-to-great. We will examine some of the craft elements of fiction and write in short bursts. You’ll write two short stories that will sizzle with such intensity that the words will burn up the paper, will bubble and melt your printers from the sheer heat of them. We’ll aim for that, anyway, and dry out your ink cartridges in the effort.

Term: Fall 2026

Days: Mon. & Wed.

Time: 2:30-4:20pm

Instructor:

Daniel Poirier

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CRN 30434

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English 2266 – Creative Writing: Poetry

This course will explore the fundamentals of poetry writing. Through careful study of a variety of poetic theories and practices and a selection of work by local poets, students will learn to recognize and emulate a wide range of formal and thematic techniques and concepts used in contemporary poetry. Students will be given daily writing prompts and will share their poems in workshop environments.

Term: Fall 2026

Days: Tues & Thurs

Time: 12:30-2:20pm

Instructor:

Thor Polukoshko

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English 2276 – Creative Writing: Non-Fiction

You'll learn how to write and revise creative non-fiction through lectures, readings, and workshops. Although there are no hard and fast rules for writing, there are several common stumbling blocks that new writers often trip over when learning craft, and in this course, we pay close attention to these problem areas and come up with strategies for avoiding them. In addition to writing prompts in class, as well as a few "field trips" around campus, you'll be expected to produce two personal essays and participate in writing workshops. A revision assignment and pitch letter will also be given.

Term: Fall 2026

Days: Tues & Thurs

Time: 2:30-4:20pm

Instructor:

Sarah Richards

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