



Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages

Eng 2065 American Writers II, 3 Units

Spring 2026

T/R 11am-12:15pm	Ben Cater, PhD
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Office Hours: Tu/Th 2-3pm M/W/F by appointment	Final Exam: Thursday, May 7th 10:30am-1:00pm

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 2065 provides survey of American writers from the mid-19th century to the present within their cultural contexts. The course considers the lasting influence of these works on modern American culture and literary canons.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the Conclusion of the Course Students will be able to:

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
 - a. Standard literary terminology
 - b. Modes/genres of literature
 - c. Elements of literary genres
 - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - e. Contemporary critical approaches
 - f. Extra-literary research

3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
4. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that examine several of the fundamental concepts of literary study.

TEXTS

The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Volume C: 1865-1914, 10th Edition

The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Volume D: 1914-1945, 10th Edition

The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Volume E: Literature Since 1945, 10th Edition

COURSE REQUIRMENTS

Reading: Dates for the readings are clearly indicated on the schedule. Read daily if possible and complete all reading on time.

Reading Responses: Seven times during the semester—but never more than once a week—each student will bring to class or post to Canvas prior to the start of class a response to the daily reading. Together, these seven responses will constitute 7% of the total grade. The specific form of the response will differ depending on whether students are responding to poetry or to prose. Details concerning the responses will be posted on Canvas. On the days you complete a response, you will be expected to participate in the discussion more fully than your fellow classmates. Three other brief writing assignments can be found in the Canvas modules.

Discussion: The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of daily discussions. Each of you must feel comfortable contributing to discussions. And each of you should bring any questions you have about the reading to our attention during the course of our discussions.

Writing: Each student will complete a mid-term exam, a final exam, and two essays written in class. Each of the exams will include a written portion. The final exam will contain comprehensive elements. Students cannot pass the course without completing all four of these major assignments. Late essays will receive a ten percent daily deduction and will not be accepted when the value would be zero.

Oral Presentation: Twice during the semester students will give oral presentations. The first will be about a poet included in the anthology but not assigned as a part of the course readings, and the second about a prose work not assigned to the entire class. The prose work assignment will be a group assignment.

Attendance: Because your participation is essential, your attendance is mandatory. More than four absences for any reason may result in your final grade being lowered. Students who miss more than nine class sessions will be de-enrolled.

Assessment and Grading

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Essay #1	15%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Essay #2	15%
Prose Presentations	4%
Poetry Presentation	1%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	5%
Reading Responses	10%

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional scale will be used. Those who earn more than 90% of the possible points earn an A, those who earn between 80-89% of the points earn a B, and so on.

A indicates exceptional work (roughly 20% of students normally achieve this level)

B indicates superior work (roughly 30% of students normally achieve this level)

C indicates average work

D indicates passing work

F indicates unsatisfactory work

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an

accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Note: The information below must be included under the “PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy” Section if you are teaching an Online or Hybrid course.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you’re in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Bond Academic Center.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Lomabooks Instructions for Students:

This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed

components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)

READING SCHEDULE FOR ENG 2057: AMERICAN WRITERS II

**Always read the editor's introduction to the author.*

- Tues. 1/13 "American Literature 1865-1914," Vol. C, pp. 1-18. Twain, Vol. C, pp. 131-38
Thurs. 1/15 Twain, "The War Prayer" (link in the Canvas module), Howells, Vol. C, pp. 351-62.
James, Vol. C, pp. 422-64.
- Tues. 1/20 Jewett, Vol. C, pp. 555-62 and Freeman, Vol. C, pp. 665-77.
Thurs. 1/22 Gilman, Vol. C, pp. 829-43 and Wharton, Vol. C, pp. 844-45 and 874-83.
- Tues. 1/27 Chesnutt, Vol. C, pp. 711-13 and 727-35, Johnson, pp. 1047-49, and Dunbar, pp. 1073-1081, Washington, Vol. C, pp. 686-88 and 703-11.
Thurs. 1/29 DuBois, Vol. C, pp. 930-32 and 939-48, Crane, Vol. C, pp. 982-83 and 1028-47 and London, Vol. C. pp. 1087-99.
- Tues. 2/3 "American Literature 1914-1945," **Vol. D**, pp. 3-28 and Frost, Vol. D, pp. 241-61, Cather, Vol. D, pp. 35-91.
Thurs. 2/5 Cather, Vol. D, pp. 91-172.
- Tues. 2/10 Anderson, Vol. D, pp. 273-78 and "Modernist Manifestos," Vol. D, pp. 327-45.
Fitzgerald, Vol. D, pp. 657-59 and 752-66.
Thurs. 2/12 Hughes, Vol. D, pp. 491-93 and 944-56 and McKay, Vol. D, pp. 481-85, and Cullen, Vol. D, pp. 965-70.
- Tues. 2/17 Hurston, Vol. D, pp. 538-60; Hemingway, Vol. D, pp. 903-05 and 919-22 and Steinbeck, Vol. D, pp. 956-64.
Thurs. 2/19 **Essay #1 in class.**
- Tues. 2/24 O'Neill, Vol. D. pp. 400-81.
Thurs. 2/26 **Mid-Term Exam**, Faulkner, Vol. D, pp. 774-843.
- Tues. 3/3 Faulkner, Vol. D, pp. 843-72
Thurs. 3/5 "American Literature since 1945," **Vol. E**, pp. 3-24.
- Tues. 3/10—Thurs 3/12 **Spring Break**
- Tues. 3/17 Miller, Vol. E, pp. 192-260.
Thurs. 3/19 Hansberry, Vol. E, pp. 540-608.
- Tues. 3/24 **Essay #2 in-class**
Thurs. 3/26 Roth, Vol. E, pp. 652-75; O'Connor, Vol. E, pp. 370-93.

- Tues. 3/31 Ginsberg, Vol. E, pp. 413-26; Cheever, Vol. E, pp. 125-34 and Updike, Vol. E, pp. 643-52.
- Thurs. 4/2 **Easter Break – NO CLASS**
- Tues. 4/7 “Postmodern Manifestos,” Vol. E, pp. 317-31 and O’Brien, Vol. E, pp. 873-83.
Morrison, Vol. E, pp. 617-32 and Le Guin, Vol. E, pp. 508-14.
- Thurs. 4/9 Wilson, Vol. E, pp. 825-73, Carver, Vol. E, pp. 738-49.
- Tues. 4/14 Nguyen, Vol. E, pp. 1107-20 and Machado, Vol. E, pp. 1130-43.
Thurs. 4/16 “Creative Nonfiction,” Vol. E, pp. 1003-27.
- Tues. 4/21 Bambara, Vol. E, pp. 760-73 and Walker, Vol. E, pp. 818-26.
Thurs. 4/23 Anzaldua, Vol. E, pp. 793-813 and Cisneros, Vol. E, pp. 975-83.
- Tues. 4/28 Silko, Vol. E, pp. 888-95 and Alexie, Vol. E, pp. 1060-71.
Thurs. 4/30 Lahiri, Vol. E, pp. 1081-98, Saunders. Vol. E, pp. 1028-41.
- Thurs. 5/9 Final Exam 7:30-10:00**