# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 124**

**Contemporary Literature**

1. **Catalog Statement**

English 124 is an introduction to representative literature after World War II, focusing on fiction, drama and poetry. The course explores recent advances in technology, multicultural diversity, and gender equity, plus other artistic, political and cultural developments and how these changes have affected contemporary literature; emphasis is on American authors, including recent immigrants.

#### Units – 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 101

1. **Course Entry Expectations**

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Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions
5. gather and organize information through library research
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work as specified by the English 120 rubric.
7. **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. understand the development of contemporary literature from the end of World War II to the present, identifying major literary movements;
2. read critically and write analytical, thesis-centered essays, applying themes and trends in contemporary literature;
3. analyze and interpret literary elements such as characterization, dialogue, point of view, symbolism, tone, and imagery as these apply to theme;
4. analyze and evaluate social and cultural issues such as multicultural diversity and gender equity through the reading of contemporary literature;
5. analyze and evaluate the effects of technological advances, scientific discoveries, and artistic developments on contemporary literature.
6. **Course Content**
7. Background and Introduction to Contemporary Literature 3 hours
	1. Key events of 20th and 21st-century American history
	2. Overview of cultural and social traditions, values,

beliefs, and roles following World War II

* 1. Overview of contemporary literature in light of

background

* 1. Key concepts of literary analysis
1. Modernism and the Realist Legacy (1945-1960) 15 hours
	1. Short fiction
	2. Poetry
	3. Novels
	4. Drama
2. The 1960s & 1970s: Beats, Counter-Culture, 15 hours

& the Advent of Postmodernism

* 1. Short fiction
	2. Poetry
	3. Novels
	4. Drama
1. The 1980s, 1990s, and Into the 21st Century: 15 hours

The Rise of Multiculturalism and Gender Perspectives

* 1. Short fiction
	2. Poetry
	3. Novels
	4. Drama
1. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture and discussion
2. collaborative learning.
3. educational technologies such as electronic presentation, Internet, etc.
4. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**
	* + 1. Two essay examinations
			2. Quizzes
			3. One paper (4-6 pages)
			4. A two and a half hour final essay examination
5. **Textbooks**

Hurt, J. Literature: A Contemporary Introduction, Parts A & B, Macmillan, 1994

McMichael, G. Anthology of American Lit. Vol. I, 9th edition, 0131987992, Prentice Hall, 2006

1. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. understand the development of contemporary literature; identify major literary movements and the social and cultural developments which have impacted literary production.

2 read critically in order to analyze and interpret literary elements.

3. write analytical, thesis-centered essays applying themes and trends in contemporary literature and which analyze and interpret literary elements

**VII.**