Course Information:

Name of Course: American Voices
Class Hours: 3
Credit Hours: 3

Course Number: ENGL 415

Catalog Course Description: Students examine literature by one or more American authors representative of particular movements, eras, genres, styles, themes, cultures, or other relevant perspectives. Focus may vary each semester. May be taken twice for credit if focus differs each time.

Prerequisites: Grade of C or above in ENGL 101

Course Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will identify the distinguishing elements of different genres.
2. Students will identify and apply literary terms and definitions appropriately.
3. Students will use the technique of close reading in the analysis of literature.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the creative process as it applies to literature.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of different literary periods, their historical and social backgrounds, individual authors, stylistic trends, and influence on later authors and literary periods.
   - Discuss pertinent background of authors and works studied;
   - Identify what is distinctive about the works studied;
6. Students will distinguish different theories and critical approaches related to the study of literature.
   - Explain the value of an in-depth examination of selected literary works by one or more American authors;
7. Students will explore the contemporary relevance and value of past and present works.
   - Assess the current relevance of these works;
8. Students will examine the interdisciplinary nature of literature.
   - Connect works with other literatures/disciplines;
9. Students will recognize the global nature of literature.
10. Students will write coherently about literature, providing information from the text to support their reasoning.
    - Write critical essays about selected literary works.

Topics to be studied: List of the topics to be presented in the course may include the following:
- What constitutes an “American voice”
- The personal background of the author(s) studied
- The historical background of the selected works
- The relevance of the literary works during the era they were written
- The current relevance of the literary works studied
- Distinctive aspects of the works examined
- What these works have in common with other literatures/disciplines, as relevant
- Writing critically about literature
- Instructor may or may not opt to pursue diversity goal

Relationship of Course to Program or Discipline Learning Outcomes:

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West Virginia University at Parkersburg  
Special requirements of the course:

Additional information:

Prepared by: Joyce M. Stover

Date: October 19, 2017