



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
PULASKI TECH

Course-Level Assessment Report
Course: ENGL 2335 and ENGL 2336
Academic Year: 2020-2021

Due to Chair/Program Director and Faculty Assessment Chair by
September 4



1. Name of course: American Literature
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3. Date of submission: September 3, 2021
4. Academic year: 2020-2021

Course-Level Learning Outcomes

1. What are the Course-Level Outcomes (CLOs)?

1. **Read, Analyze, and Interpret Literary Works** Students will read, analyze, and interpret works by representative British writers.
2. **Techniques, Methods, and Ideas** Students will identify various literary techniques, methods, and ideas.
3. **Culture and Society** Students will illustrate how literature reflects culture and society.
4. **Interpretive Paper** Students will write at least one interpretive paper.

2. Which CLOs were addressed for the academic year?

All of the CLOs were addressed and assessed; however, only CLOs **3 Culture and Society** and **4 Interpretive Paper** were reported for the 2020-2021 academic year.

3. Which CLOs are being addressed in your assessment plan in the upcoming academic year?

We will assess all CLOs during the 2021-2022 academic year, but we will only report on CLOs **3 Culture and Society** and **4 Interpretive Paper**.

4. Explain the assessment cycle.

We started a new three-year cycle at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year. The three-year cycle will be re-evaluated at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year.

5. What are the assessment methods? Are they direct or indirect?

Students in ENGL 2335 are assessed using the course and learning outcomes below.

The student will:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret works by representative American writers.
2. Identify various literary techniques, methods, and ideas.
3. Illustrate how literature reflects culture and society.
4. Write at least one interpretive paper.

Students will study a minimum of four works. Each of the following three periods must be covered—including a minimum of three genres overall and an exposure to a variety of critical approaches and literary techniques, literature, and interconnections: 1) literature to 1620; 2) early American literature, 1620-1820; and 3) American literature, 1820-1865. The class will require students to read and discuss primary and secondary sources critically, with an awareness of cultural and historical significance. Students will write a minimum of 10 pages total in analytical assignments that will be divided between a number of shorter writing assignments and at least one longer literary analysis essay that will incorporate multiple critical sources and discuss historical and cultural connections. Students will demonstrate good scholarship by using the conventions of MLA style and documentation. Midterm/final/unit tests will cover content of selected readings, general factual knowledge of history and culture for each period, and some interpretation of excerpts from the readings.

Students in ENGL 2336 are assessed using the course and learning outcomes below.

The student will:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret works by representative American writers.
2. Identify various literary techniques, methods, and ideas.
3. Illustrate how literature reflects culture and society.
4. Write at least one interpretive paper.

Students will study a minimum of four works. Each of the following four periods must be covered—including a minimum of three genres overall and an exposure to a variety of critical approaches and literary techniques, literature, and interconnections: 1) American literature from 1865-1914; 2) American literature between the World War I and World War II, 1914-1945; 3) American prose since 1945; and 4) American poetry since 1945. The class will require students to read and discuss primary and secondary sources critically, with an awareness of cultural and historical significance. Students will write a minimum of 10 pages total in analytical assignments that will be divided between a number of shorter writing assignments and at least one longer literary analysis essay that will incorporate multiple critical sources and discuss historical and cultural connections. Students will demonstrate good scholarship by using the conventions of MLA style and documentation. Midterm/final/unit tests will cover content of selected readings, general factual knowledge of history and culture for each period, and some interpretation of excerpts from the readings.

6. What are the assessment goal(s), including benchmarks?

The goal for this assessment is for 70% of the students to demonstrate adequate or higher proficiency in the Content and Development area on their literary analyses papers.

A standard rubric will be used to assess demonstration of literary analysis (Content and Development) in the paper according to the following levels of proficiency - Superior, Strong, Adequate, Weak, or No Proficiency.

7. What were the findings for the academic year?

During the 2020-2021 academic year, 100% of ENGL 2335 and ENGL 2336 students achieved adequate or higher proficiency on the Culture and Society CLO. During the same semester, 100% of ENGL 2335 students achieved adequate or higher proficiency on the Critical Thinking/Interpretive Paper CLO. Online and on campus students showed no differences in proficiency.

8. What is your analysis of the findings?

American Literature courses at UA-PTC have extremely high success rates. This is likely because most students enrolled in this course have a high level of interest in the course, and they are invested in the subject matter. In addition, ENGL 2335 and ENGL 2336 are more frequently taught online by full-time instructors. There may be a correlation between these factors and the high success rates in English courses at UA-PTC.

9. What is the action plan for the upcoming academic year? Explain.

Just like in previous years, all CLOs will continue to be assessed through a variety of assignments during the 2021-2022 academic year. The literary analyses/ research papers will continue to be the primary assessment method used for reporting.

Furthermore, reporting will continue to focus on CLOs **3 Culture and Society** and **4 Interpretive Paper**.

ENGL 2335 and 2336 instructors will include more supporting resources such as videos in their Blackboard shells in order to enable students' knowledge of context. These resources should contain relevant and accurate information on topics such as authors, culture, and time period.

In addition, ENGL 2335 and 2336 instructors will assign shorter, lower-stakes writing assignments throughout the semester to prepare students to write the interpretive paper at the end of the semester.

American literature instructors will continue to refer students to online tutoring and utilize an embedded librarian in all online courses to support remote learners—particularly since more students are working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, Milestones, UA-PTC's journal of outstanding academic writing, has been expanded to include a greater variety of genres in order to maximize use as a teaching and learning tool throughout the semester in all ENGL courses, and the editor of Milestones is working to offer the journal online. The model essays provided in Milestones directly support the English Course Learning Outcomes for ENGL 2335 and ENGL 2336.