

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

ENGL 267: Masculinity Studies in American Literature and Culture

CIP Code: 230101

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Updated by: Seth Nixon Fall 2016
Updated by: Seth Nixon Fall 2020**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES
FALL 2015**

A. **TITLE:** ENGL 267: Masculinity Studies in American Literature and Culture

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 267

C. **CREDIT HOURS:**

3 Credit Hours:

3 Lecture Hours: 3 per week

Course Length: 15 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** NO

E. **GER CATEGORY:** GER 7

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** SUMMER

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the ways in which gender – and in particular – the broad concept of masculinity, arises from and impacts American literature and culture. Students will examine novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, theatrical productions, and films, as well as excerpts from prominent gender studies scholars. Students should increase their understanding of how masculinity functions and shapes American culture, as well as develop a critical and theoretical lens when it comes to reading and interpreting literary works. Through the study of masculinity and masculinities, students should leave the course with nuanced knowledge of the complex implications of gendered men and women.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

Composition and the Spoken Word (ENGL 101)

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

<u>Course Objective</u>	<u>Institutional SLO</u>
a. <i>Identify</i> and discuss factors that contribute to the social construction of gender, particularly masculinity and masculinities in American culture.	1. Communication
b. <i>Describe</i> and <i>explain</i> the ways in which masculinity and masculinities emerged from and/or impact American literature and culture.	3. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills
c. <i>Analyze</i> literary works through the critical lens of masculinity studies to create written arguments.	2. Critical Thinking Skills
d. <i>Design</i> a project that demonstrates knowledge built throughout the course.	1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking 4. Professional Competence
e. <i>Evaluate</i> information from primary and secondary sources and <i>synthesize</i> evidence and ideas.	2. Critical Thinking 4. Professional Competence
f. <i>Utilize</i> official documentation format (MLA, APA, etc.) when presenting work involving knowledge built through research.	4. Professional Competence

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: NO

K. TEXTS: (If a text is used it should adhere to APA, MLA or ASA)

- Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
 Bederman, Gail *Manliness & Civilization*
 Ellison, Ralph. *The Invisible Man*.
 Feinberg, Leslie. *Stone Butch Blues*
 Karras, Ruth Mazo. *From Boys to Men: Formations of Masculinity in Late Medieval Europe*.
 Lia Block, Francesca. *Weetzie Bat*
 Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five, or The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death*
 Zeta Acosta, Oscar. *The Autobiography of Brown Buffalo*.

L. REFERENCES:

Novels and Plays

- Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
 Ellison, Ralph. *The Invisible Man*.

Feinberg, Leslie. *Stone Butch Blues*.
Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*.
Lia Block, Francesca. *Dangerous Angels*.
Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy*.
Murray, Xtya Maya. *Locas*.
Vaughn, Brian K. *Y: The Last Man*.
Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
Zeta Acosta, Oscar. *The Autobiography of Brown Buffalo*.

Short Stories and Creative Nonfiction

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Self-Reliance."
Sedaris, David. "Full House."
Staples, Brent. "Black Men and Public Space."
Thoreau, Henry David. Excerpt from *Walden, or Life in the Woods*.
Guante. "Ten Responses to the Phrase 'Man Up.'"

Film and TV:

Boyhood (2014)
The Butch Factor (2010)
RuPaul's Drag Race (2009)

Articles and excerpts:

Bly, Robert. Excerpt from *Iron John: A Book About Men*.
Brown, Jeffrey A. "Comic Book Masculinity and the New Black Superhero." Greven, David. "The Bonds of Men."
Gutterman, David S. "Postmodernism and the Interrogation of Masculinity."
Jeffords, Susan. Excerpt from *Hard Bodies: Hollywood Masculinity in the Regan Era*.
Kimmel, Michael. "Masculinity as Homophobia."
Lorber, Judith. "'Night to His Day': The Social Construction of Gender."
Whitehead, Stephen M. Excerpt from *Men and Masculinities*.
Connell, R.W., & Messerschmidt, James. "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept."
Peters, Brian M. "Emo Gay Boys And Subculture: Postpunk Queer Youth And (Re)Thinking Images Of Masculinity."
Trites, Roberta. "Queer Discourse and the Young Adult Novel: Repression and Power in Gay Male Adolescent Literature."
Wickens, Corrine. "Codes, Silences, and Homophobia: Challenging Normative Assumptions About Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary LGBTQ Young Adult Literature."
Halberstam, Judith. Excerpt from *Female Masculinity*.

M. EQUIPMENT:

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Assignments
Final
Midterm
Participation

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Masculinity and Masculinities

A. History

- a. Early American literature and the concept of the “rugged individual”
- b. The “wild west” and the idolization of the “cowboy”
- c. The American hero (i.e. cowboys, soldiers, warriors, superheroes, etc.)
- d. The early 20th century “man of the house”
- e. Gay male masculinity (and femininity)
- f. Female masculinity
- g. Masculinities

B. Gender Studies

- a. Feminism as a movement and as a theoretical lens
- b. Gender as a social construct
- c. Feminism and its impact on masculinities
- d. The emergence of the “Men’s Movement”
- e. The development of multiple masculinities, including queer masculinity, female masculinity, and hegemonic masculinity
- f. The intersection of race, social class, and sexuality and their impact on masculinity and masculinities
- g. Transgender and genderqueer influence on masculinities

C. Literature and Media

- a. Masculinity and masculinities emerging from American writers
- b. Masculinity and masculinities emerging from television, advertisements, and film
- c. Masculinity and masculinities and their impact on American identity, identities, and lives

II. Literary Analysis and Research

A. Novels, Plays, and Short Stories

- a. Point of View
- b. Character
- c. Style
- d. Theme
- e. Symbol
- f. Literary Theory (e.g. gender studies)

B. Film and Television

- a. Music
- b. Shot type
- c. Editing
- d. Sequence
- e. Genre
- f. Structure
- g. Audience knowledge

C. Argumentation

- a. Thesis
- b. Claims
- c. Evidence

D. Research Skills

- a. Finding sources
- b. Evaluating sources
- c. Gathering information
- d. Synthesizing ideas
- e. Documentation

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** (If the course has a designated laboratory session this MUST be completed, follow the format for the detailed course outline listed above)