

**English 522.01W**  
**Major American Authors: John Steinbeck**  
**Fall 2025**

**Dr. Karen Roggenkamp**  
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<b>Course Description</b>	This course in Major American Writers examines selected works of John Steinbeck, looking at some of Steinbeck’s most popular and influential—not to mention controversial—novels and stories, read within their cultural, intellectual, and political contexts. We will cover some of Steinbeck’s best-known works but also wander outside of his novels and short stories to include a taste of his literary journalism and travel writing. As we move through the semester, we will explore how Steinbeck’s personal life, philosophical ideals, literary experimentation, and developing voice led to his place as one of twentieth-century America’s most important writers.
<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	For the purpose of measured Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: <u><b>SLO 1</b></u> Students will demonstrate satisfactory completion of a critical review of scholarly literature, as measured by a checklist for this assignment. <u><b>SLO 2</b></u> Students will demonstrate effective construction of a final project, as measured by a checklist for this assignment.
<b>Required Texts</b>	The following works are required for this course (unless otherwise indicated, author is John Steinbeck). In addition, you will have a small number of readings to complete that you will download from D2L (details provided in schedule of assignments). In general, you may use any edition you like. The ISBNs listed correspond with the editions ordered through the bookstore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Cannery Row</i> (978-0140187373)</li> <li>▪ <i>East of Eden</i> (978-0140186390)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (978-0143039433)</li> <li>▪ <i>In Dubious Battle</i> (978-0143039631)</li> <li>▪ <i>Of Mice and Men</i> (978-0140177398)</li> <li>▪ <i>Once There Was a War</i> (978-0143104797)</li> <li>▪ <i>The Pastures of Heaven</i> (978-0140187489)</li> <li>▪ <i>Travels with Charley in Search of America</i> (978-0140053203)</li> <li>▪ William Souder, <i>Mad at the World: A Life of John Steinbeck</i> (978-0393868326)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Graded Items</b></p>	<table data-bbox="402 153 844 357"> <tr> <td>Class participation/discussion</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Article presentation</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Article written review (3-4 pp.)</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project Proposal</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Project</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>100%</b></td> </tr> </table> <ul data-bbox="402 388 1485 1060" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I will enter <b>participation</b> grades three times during the semester: one for the first five weeks, one for weeks 6-10, and one for the final weeks of the course. For more information about class participation and discussion expectations, please see the separate section below.</li> <li>▪ <b>Article Review:</b> Each student will read and analyze a pre-chosen full-length scholarly article on one text during the semester. I will supply the articles in D2L. When it is your turn, you will do two things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ First, you will create a narrated slide show or video in which you present the central argument, claims, and conclusions of the article. Send that to me by the beginning of the week in which your article is scheduled so that I can post it to D2L and everyone else can view it.</li> <li>○ Next, write a 3-4 page (double-spaced) summary and analysis of the article, which you will turn in during the week of your presentation. In essence, this paper will explain the article’s argument, main points, and structure. Then you will weigh in how successful the author was in making his/her argument. Do you find it convincing? Why or why not? What are the article’s strengths and weaknesses?</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Final Project:</b> You will have a choice of topics for your final project. Details forthcoming. You will also have a proposal for your final project due a few weeks before the end of the term.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="402 1092 1485 1228">Note: I <i>only</i> grant extensions on assignments only under exceptional circumstances, <i>and only</i> if you make explicit prior arrangements with me and provide proof of your inability to complete that paper on time due to extenuating circumstances (severe illness, death in immediate family, etc.)</p> <p data-bbox="402 1260 1485 1533">The Department of Literature and Languages does not, as a rule, allow an Incomplete (X) on the transcript; incompletes are only awarded under extraordinary circumstances, pending Department Head and Dean approval. If personal issues or conflicts arise that lead to your missing a substantial amount of class, you should consider withdrawing from the class. As a rough guideline, for what A-F grades mean, I award A for truly outstanding work, B for work significantly above the level necessary to meet basic requirements, C for work that meets basic requirements, D for work that meets only some of the requirements, and F for work that is not completed or that fails to meet the requirements of the assignment.</p>	Class participation/discussion	30%	Article presentation	10%	Article written review (3-4 pp.)	15%	Project Proposal	10%	Final Project	35%	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
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<p><b>Note about Participation/ Discussion</b></p>	<p data-bbox="402 1560 1485 1795">This course’s basic mode of delivery is online, but with an optional zoom meeting every Monday from 5:30-7:00 p.m. I will record these class sessions, and if you are unable to attend the zoom meeting on Monday, you will need to watch it as soon as I post it (usually Tuesday). All students are required, additionally, to participate in the discussion in D2L. Students who are able to participate in the zoom class will not be required to write as much on the discussion board as those who miss the zoom class, however, I require that all students read the majority of comments that other students write.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1827 1485 1894">You may post as many times as you like, and you should definitely start posting even if you have not finished the entire reading assignment and activities yet. In fact, sometimes it is</p>												

	<p>very instructive to see people’s responses when they are only mid-way through an assignment. I very much prefer that scenario rather than having everyone wait until the very end of the week to post on the discussion board. I have not set a specific quota for how many posts you need to provide for each week’s discussion. However, as a general guideline, I will be looking for at least four substantive posts total per week to earn a “B” for that week’s discussion, including both responses to other people’s posts and new topics that you start on your own. (By substantive I mean posts that are more than one or two sentences in length, posts that are detailed and specific, posts that work to enrich the conversation—not, in other words, short, overly-generalized posts that simply say “I really liked this story.”) Students who post all their ideas on the night of the deadline will not fare as well as students who post at least two different days during the week.</p> <p>I urge you to write your comments in response to what others have posted, in addition to starting your own threads. If someone has already posted the point that you had wanted to make, add to that thread rather than starting an entirely new thread that says the same thing. To me, that latter action implies that you are not reading what other people have written. Remember, the whole idea is to get a discussion going!</p> <p>Additionally, again, my expectation is that you will read the posts that other people put up, which is tracked on my end. Students who do not also read the majority of other people’s posts will not receive full credit, even if they post numerous times themselves.</p> <p>From time to time I will step in and participate in these discussions, and I will read everything you write, but I will not respond to each and every post because I am more interested in what you have to say about the items we read than in what I have to say. Please note that if you miss a discussion deadline, you will not be allowed to go back and post. Thus you would not receive credit for that week’s discussion.</p>
<p><b>Communication and Technology</b></p>	<p>I tend to send several emails over the semester, and I will use your university email account (myLeo), so be sure to check it every day.</p> <p>This course will be supplemented using myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace), the Learning Management system used by ETAMU. You will need your CWID and password to log into the course page via the myLeo portal. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 902-468-6000 or <a href="mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org">helpdesk@online.tamuc.org</a>. To complete this course successfully, you will need a computer with internet access (high speed recommended) and a word processor equipped with Microsoft Word. Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system and a recent version of a browser like Internet Explorer or Google Chrome. Your course will also work with Macintosh OS along with a recent version of Safari or Firefox.</p> <p>ETAMU provides students with technical support in the use of D2L. Technology problems are not generally an excuse for a late assignment--make sure you submit your work in time to allow for any problems accessing the Dropbox. You may reach the help desk by the following means, 24 hours a day, seven days a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Phone 866-656-5511</li> <li>➤ Email <a href="mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org">helpdesk@online.tamuc.org</a></li> </ul> <p>Click on “Help” button for information regarding working with D2L</p>
<p><b>Additional Policies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You are responsible for reading and understanding all items included on this syllabus and on any additional documents you receive during the course.</li> </ul>

- The Department of Literature and Languages will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalty for students who are found guilty of academic dishonesty include failure of the assignment and/or course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. Refer to the ETAMU Code of Student Conduct 13.99.99.R0.10 for details:  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>.  
 Examples of plagiarism include but are not restricted to: turning in an essay written entirely or partly by someone else; copying any portion of someone else's words and presenting those words as your own (i.e. without quotation or citation); copying paragraphs, sentences, or parts of sentences from another source without citation; using the same ideas that you have found in another writer's essay and presenting those ideas as your own (again, without quotation or citation). If you are not clear about how to avoid any of these acts, it is up to you to clarify, either via online information or our own Writing Center on the first floor of DTH. Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism, and we expect all students to understand what constitutes an act of academic dishonesty.
- ETAMU acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text or to suggest replacements for text beyond individual words. However, because this course is intended to teach you how to generate your own content, **no use of AI for assignments will be permitted**. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).
- All students enrolled in the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. ETAMU will comply in the classroom and online courses with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with registered disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library 162; phone 903-886-5150 or 903-886-5835; fax 903-468-8148; email [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu); website <http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>.
- Texas Senate Bill 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in ETAMC buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas license to carry a handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the state of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 911.
- Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, DTH 141).

In the event that the instructor is the Department Head or Assistant Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CHSSA) after following the steps outlined above. If the instructor in question is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

### Assignments

<b>Week 1</b> <b>8/25</b>	<p>Introduction to course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 8/25, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>9/1</b>	<p><b>No zoom class this week, but we will have online discussion.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>The Pastures of Heaven</i> (1932)</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through early 1930s</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>9/8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read Steinbeck, <i>In Dubious Battle</i> (1936)</li> <li>▪ Read excerpts from <i>Steinbeck: A Life in Letters</i> (in D2L)</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through <i>In Dubious Battle</i> section</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 9/8, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>9/15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>Of Mice and Men</i> (1937)</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through <i>Of Mice and Men</i> section.</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 9/15, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>9/22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read excerpt from William Stott, <i>Documentary Expression and Thirties America</i>, in D2L.</li> <li>▪ Read Dorothea Lange, <i>An American Exodus: A Record of Human Erosion</i> (1939), in D2L.</li> <li>▪ Watch <i>The Plough that Broke the Plains</i> (1936): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uEwGmjhuU&amp;ab_channel=USNationalArchives">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uEwGmjhuU&amp;ab_channel=USNationalArchives</a></li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 9/22, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>9/29</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, first third (1939)</li> <li>▪ Read selection from Steinbeck, <i>Working Days</i>, located in D2L.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 9/29, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7 10/6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, second third</li> <li>▪ Read selection from Steinbeck, <i>Working Days</i>, located in D2L</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 8/25, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8 10/13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, last third</li> <li>▪ Read selection from Steinbeck, <i>Working Days</i>, located in D2L</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> section.</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 8/25, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9 10/22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>Once There Was a War</i></li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through World War II section.</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 10/22, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10 10/27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>Cannery Row</i> (1945)</li> <li>▪ Read excerpts from Steinbeck, <i>Log from the Sea of Cortez</i>, in D2L.</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through <i>Cannery Row</i> section.</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 10/27, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11 11/3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>East of Eden</i>, first third</li> <li>▪ Read excerpts from Steinbeck, <i>Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters</i>, in D2L.</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> up to <i>East of Eden</i> section.</li> <li>▪ <b>Submit 1-page minimum proposal for final project to Week 11 Dropbox.</b></li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 11/3, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting:</li> </ul>

	<p><a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b> <b>11/10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>East of Eden</i>, second third</li> <li>▪ Read excerpts from Steinbeck, <i>Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters</i>, in D2L.</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 11/10, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 13</b> <b>11/17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>East of Eden</i>, last third</li> <li>▪ Read excerpts from Steinbeck, <i>Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters</i>, in D2L.</li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through <i>East of Eden</i> section.</li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 11/17, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14</b> <b>11/24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project work week</li> </ul>
<b>Week 15</b> <b>12/1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read <i>Travels with Charley in Search of America</i></li> <li>▪ Read <i>Mad at the World</i> through <i>Travels with Charley</i> section.</li> <li>▪ <b>Submit final projects to Week 15 Dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, 12/10.</b></li> <li>▪ Optional zoom class Monday, 12/1, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130">https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/6474736130</a> Meeting ID: 647 473 6130</li> <li>▪ If unable to attend zoom meeting, watch the recording once it is posted to D2L.</li> </ul>