

ENGL 3340.001
History of American Literature
Fall 2009
TR 9:30-10:50
Preston Hall 101

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10-12 am or by appointment

Course webpage: <http://3340amlit.wordpress.com>

All assignments, announcements, and updates to the course schedule will be posted on this site. Students should consult it frequently for the most up-to-date information on the course.

Required Books: *Bedford Anthology of American Literature*, Vols 1 & 2. Susan Belasco and Linck Johnson, eds. Bedford/St. Martin's.
VOL 1 ISBN: 978-0312482992
VOL 2 ISBN: 978-0312412081

Course Description:

This class provides students with a broad introduction to American literature from the 17th century to the present. Students will be exposed to major texts, authors, and movements from American literary history. They will read a variety of literary genres, including political documents, journals, essays, autobiographies, poetry, short stories, and novels. The breadth of the course and the variety of the reading allow students to gain an understanding of the role that literature played in both constructing and reflecting the development of the nation. The course is organized around a selection of “key texts” – works of American literature that exemplify a time period, literary movement, or issue – and “clusters” of other works that either serve as context for, respond to, demonstrate the influence of, or contrast with the key text.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Explain or describe the meanings of American literary texts.
- Apply different and appropriate critical frameworks to the analysis of literary texts.
- Identify and explain the historical, literary, or social/political context(s) of assigned texts.
- Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception and interpretation of texts.
- Define and apply critical and literary terms.
- Locate, explicate, and apply literary criticism to textual analysis.

Course Requirements:

Theater Assignment	5%
Participation	10%
3 Writing Assignments	10 / 15 / 20%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%

Theater Assignment: All students are required to attend a play this semester, either on campus or off. Additional information regarding the event and assignment will be provided.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. Students are granted 2 unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. *Points will be deducted from the student's final grade.* In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.

# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
0-2	0
3	2
4	4

Excessive absences (5 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.

100% Attendance Option: Any student who has perfect attendance throughout the semester has the chance to opt out of the Final Exam. Students must have attended every class – even excused absences will disqualify students for this option. The student's final grade will be calculated from all other assignments as listed above in the Course Requirements (out of 75 points).

Participation: Class participation is a very important part of this class. Good participation can significantly improve your course grade. This includes: participating in class discussion, asking questions, responding to questions, attending office hours, being polite and respectful to classmates, and generally being alert and interested.

Late Policy: All assignments are deducted 5 points every class day they are late, with 10 points per weekend. No missed quizzes, homework, or in-class assignments can be made up. Missed exams can only be made up with evidence of family or medical emergency.

ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OVER EMAIL UNLESS SPECIFIED BY THE PROFESSOR. ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED OVER EMAIL ARE NOT CONSIDERED "TURNED IN" UNTIL A HARD COPY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.

New University Drop Policy: Students seeking to drop a course should speak to the Academic Advisor for their major. Undergraduate students who drop a course on or before the Last Drop Date will receive an automatic grade of "W" regardless of whether they have completed assignments or not. If you stop attending class but fail to drop the course, you will receive an F for your final grade; the instructor cannot drop you from the class.

Electronics Policy: TURN CELL PHONES OFF BEFORE CLASS. No electronic items of any kind, including tape recorders, iPods, pagers, palm pilots, etc. should be used during class unless you have received permission from the instructor. Violating this rule can effect your Participation grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

English 3340 PLAGIARISM POLICY: I hold students to the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism of any kind will result in strict penalties, including the possibility of failing the course.

Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism occurs whenever a student quotes, paraphrases or summarizes another person's work without providing correct citation. Plagiarism occurs whether the text quoted is a book, article, website, reader's guide like Cliffs Notes or Sparks Notes, another student's paper, or any other source. An entire essay is considered fraudulent even if only a single sentence is plagiarized.

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

There are two ways to avoid plagiarism:

1. Develop your own opinions and ideas whenever you write papers or exams. Unless you are specifically required to do research, the paper should express only your thoughts.
2. Whenever you refer to another person's ideas or words, use proper citation to give them credit. Most English classes will require you to use MLA Citation Form. For information about MLA Form, consult your instructor or any writing handbook, particularly the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Consequences for Plagiarism

Students who commit plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the fraudulent assignment and be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Students may incur further penalties including the possibility of a failing grade for the course.

ENGL 3340.001 Reading and Assignment Schedule

All reading is from the Bedford Anthology of American Literature Vol. 1 or 2, unless otherwise indicated. I have provided only the first page number of each reading assignment but students should, naturally, read the entire selection. Likewise, students should always read the brief introductions to each selection. Page notations indicate which volume the reading is in, for example, vol. 1, pp. 12 = (I.12).

I. Colonial Period

Week One

8/25 Introduction

8/27 "Colonial Settlements" (I.93); Rowlandson, *Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (I.190-209)

Week Two

9/1 Rowlandson, *Sovereignty* (I.210-228)

9/2 Winthrop, "Modell of Christian Charity" (I.153); Bradstreet, poems (I.167)

Week Three

9/8 Hawthorne, "Minister's Black Veil" (I.997); Apess, "An Indian's Looking Glass" (I.639)

9/10 Criticism Assignment #1 due

Reading TBA

II. Early National Period

Week Four

9/15 "American Literature, 1750-1830" (I.312); Franklin, *Autobiography* (I.340-360)

9/17 Writing Assignment #1 due

Franklin, *Autobiography* (I.361-71); Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence" (I.447)

Week Five

9/22 Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (I.973)

9/24 Griffitts, "Female Patriots" (I.436); Wheatley, poems (I.503)

Week Six

9/29 "American Literature, 1830-1865" (I.588); Douglass, *Narrative* (I.855-922)

10/1 Midterm

III. The Nineteenth Century

Week Seven

10/6 Whitman, "Song of Myself" (I.1234)

10/8 Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" (I.1074)

Week Eight

10/13 Dickinson, all poems (I.1312)

10/15 "Whitman Through a Modern Lens" incl. Hughes, "Old Walt" and Ginsberg, "Supermarket" (I.1309); Ginsberg, "Howl" (II.1315); Pound, "A Pact" (II.641)

Special Note: English Department Hermanns Lecture Series: "Greening English Studies" Oct. 16-17, 2009. Further information will be provided.

Week Nine

10/20 Criticism Assignment #2 due.

Reading TBA

10/22 Class cancelled

IV. Literary Modernisms

Week Ten

10/27 "Modernisms in American Poetry" (II.529); Stevens, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" (II.605)

10/28 Writing Assignment #2 due

Pound "A Few Don'ts" (II.542); Eliot, "Tradition" (II.549); Stevens, "Anecdote of the Jar" and "Of Modern Poetry" (II.605); Moore, "Poetry" (both versions; II.658)

October 30 Last Day to Drop

Week Eleven

11/3 Lowell, "Aubade" (II.575); Frost, "Birches" (II.581); Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (II.641); Williams, "Red Wheelbarrow" and "This is Just" (II.626); Cummings, "[in Just]" and "[Buffalo Bill's]" (II.716); Hughes, "Negro Speaks of Rivers" and "I, Too" (II.752)

11/5 Faulkner, "That Evening Sun" (II.948)

Week Twelve

11/10 Hemingway, "Big Two Hearted River" (II.976)

11/12 Criticism Assignment #3 due

Reading TBA

V. Literary Postmodernisms

Week Thirteen

11/17 American Literature since 1945" (II.1038); Barthelme, "The School" (II.1360)

11/19 Writing Assignment #3 due

Delillo, "Videotape" (II.1421)

Week Fourteen

11/24 Bachelder, "Deep Wells, USA" (handout)

11/26 Class cancelled: Thanksgiving Vacation

Week Fifteen

12/1 Reading TBA

12/3 Review

Final Exam Thursday Dec. 10, 8-10:30 am