

Course Number: 2329-003
Course Title: American Literature, Colonial Period to 1865
MWF 10:00-10:50
Location: COBA 256
Credit Hours: 3

Professor: Dr. May
Office: 412 Carlisle Hall
Office Hours: Monday and Friday 1:00-3:00

Texts or Major Resources:

The Heath Anthology of American Literature; ed. Paul Lauter, vols. **A** and **B**
David Walker's Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World; ed. Peter P. Hinks

Course Description: American Literature from the colonial period to 1865.

Course objectives:

English 2329 is a survey course of the first half of American literary history, from the colonial period to roughly 1865. The course is designed to serve majors in English as well as those individuals interested in understanding basic texts connected to the formation of American society and its cultural heritage. By the end of this class you should (1) be familiar with American literature and some of its major authors from the colonial period to 1865, (2) understand how literature and culture respond to and shape each other, and (3) be a better reader of texts, focusing especially on reading texts within various historical and cultural contexts. The reading assignments for the class, rather than being chronological, will be assigned according to themes.

This course is designed with a strong emphasis on class discussion and participation. All students should be prepared to participate in the class discussion as well as keep notes over the reading assignments. Participation in the daily discussions is an important part of the class, amounting to 10% of your grade for the term.

Course Content and Schedule:

WEEK 1

Mon: (Aug. 24) Introduction to class
Wed: (Aug. 26) Introductions and discussion on the major themes
Fri: (Aug. 28) Sarah Kemble Knight, 608-626

SERMONS AND RELIGIOUS WRITINGS

WEEK 2

Mon: (Aug. 31) Jonathan Edwards, 669-671 & 690-701
Wed: (Sept. 2) Samson Occom, 1175-1197
Fri: (Sept. 4) John Woolman, 713-727

WEEK 3

****Mon: (Sept. 7) LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**
Wed: (Sept. 9) Maria W. Stewart (Handout)

Fri: (Sept. 11) Thomas Paine, 989-1003

REVOLUTIONARY WRITINGS

WEEK 4

Mon: (Sept 14) Thomas Jefferson, 1022-1025; 1042-1058

Wed: (Sept. 16) John and Abigail Adams, 1008-1022

Fri: (Sept. 18) Phillis Wheatley, 1297-1314

WEEK 5

Mon: (Sept. 21) Alexander Hamilton, 1061; James Madison, 1066-1070

Wed: (Sept. 23) An Anti-Federalist Paper, 1071-1074

Fri: (Sept. 25) **EXAM #1

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

WEEK 6

Mon: (Sept. 28) Jonathan Edwards, 680-690

Wed: (Sept. 30) Elizabeth Ashbridge, 701-713

Fri: (Oct. 2) John Marrant, (Handout)

WEEK 7

Mon: (Oct. 5) Frederick Douglass, 2035-2059

Wed: (Oct. 7) Frederick Douglass, 2059-2089

Fri: (Oct. 9) Frederick Douglass, 2089-2101

WEEK 8

Mon: (Oct. 12) Film Day: Frederick Douglass, Part 1

Wed: (Oct. 14) Film Day: Frederick Douglass, Part 2

Fri: (Oct. 16) Benjamin Franklin, 861-909

WEEK 9

Mon: (Oct. 19) Benjamin Franklin, 909-923

Wed: (Oct. 21) Briton Hammon 1197-1203

Fri: (Oct. 23) **EXAM #2

ENSLAVEMENT/ANTI-SLAVERY ADVOCATES

WEEK 10

Mon: (Oct. 26) Samuel Sewall, 520-530

Wed: (Oct. 28) Cotton Mather, 531-533 & 551-556

**Fri: (Oct. 30) John Woolman, 727-732 (Last Day to Drop Classes)

WEEK 11

Mon: (Nov. 2) **NO CLASS TODAY

Wed: (Nov. 4) Lemuel Haynes, 1314-1326

Fri: (Nov. 6) Benjamin Franklin 858-860

WEEK 12

Mon: (Nov. 9) David Walker, xi-li and 83-110

Wed: (Nov. 11) David Walker, 1-45

Fri: (Nov. 13) David Walker, 47-82

TRANSCENDENTALISM/AMERICAN ROMANTICISM

WEEK 13

Mon: (Nov. 16) Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1704-1734
Wed: (Nov. 18) Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2398-2401 & 2439-2450
Fri: (Nov. 20) Henry David Thoreau, 1859-1862 & 1911-1927

WEEK 14

Mon: (Nov. 23) Catherine Maria Sedgwick, 2363-2377
Wed: (Nov. 25) Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2431-2439
****Papers due to be turned in by midnight
via WebCT****

****Fri: (Nov. 27) THANKSGIVING BREAK**

WEEK 15

Mon: (Nov. 30) Herman Melville, 2647-2677
Wed: (Dec. 2) Edgar Allan Poe, 2484-2486 & 2527-2539
Fri: (Dec. 4) ****LAST DAY OF CLASS: REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM****

QUIZZES: Each class there will be a quiz over the material to be discussed for the day. The average for the quizzes will make up 30% of your final grade.

EXAMS: Examinations will each be worth forty (40) percent of your final grade. The final exam will be over the readings in the last two sections of the syllabus ("Enslavement/Anti-slavery Advocates" and "Transcendentalism/American Romanticism").

ESSAY: During the course of the semester, students will be assigned a paper that will be on some topic related to the content of the course. The specifics of the essay assignment will be covered in the class and during conference meetings with the professor.

Grades:

Participation 10%
Quizzes 30%
3 Exams 40%
1 Essay 20%

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is expected. You are allowed Four (4) absences. After four absences, you will be awarded a grade of "F". All reading assignments will be due on the day that they are listed on the syllabus. Late papers and other assignments will not be accepted for credit. If you arrive in class unprepared (i.e. not having read the assignment for the day) you will be awarded a grade of zero (0) for the day, which will be calculated into your average as part of participation. Also, once class begins, the door will be locked and anyone arriving late will not be allowed to enter the class that day.

OFFICE POLICY: If you find that you are having difficulty with understanding course content, please feel free to visit me during my office hours. I want you to think of my office as an extension of the classroom to be used to address any concerns you have about

the course. If need be, we can set up times to conference if the posted hours are inconvenient.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The University of Texas at Arlington encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its academic programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please contact me, the instructor, as soon as possible. You may also contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) at: Phone 817.272.3364 or email OSD at osd@uta.edu