

AML 2010: AMERICAN LITERATURE to 1885
Spring 2006

Dr. Marc D. Baldwin

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Text: ***The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 6th Edition, Vols. A & B***

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of major American literary texts from the Colonial period (beginning approx. 1620) through the American Renaissance (ending approx. 1865). We will discuss both the literary texts themselves and the historical contexts--social, political, and philosophical trends and events--that influenced and shaped them.

Instructional Methods

You will a) watch *Lectures* in streaming Powerpoint with audio; b) read short stories, poems, essays, novels, and various Lecture notes sent as email attachments; c) compose and post Discussion Board responses to various questions and assignments, some of which will require some research; and d) take 3 Exams on the readings.

* NOTE: I abhor busy work. My time is valuable; your time is valuable. So I won't squander either on extraneous nonsense or wasted words. Thus, everything I assign is purposeful and important.

Contact Information

Telephone: 813-253-7345 (Work); 727-785-8755 (Home). Feel free to call me anytime between the hours of 9:00am & 9:00pm, EST.

E-mail: Through the WebCT site. I will respond to your email within 24 hours at the most. I often return emails immediately.

NOTE: I will inform you of any days or times that I may be unavailable and I'd like you to do the same for me, please.

How To Do Well In This Course

- 1) Read and follow the *Syllabus*.
- 2) Print out the *Syllabus* so it's handy to refer to.
- 3) Watch the *Lectures*.
- 4) Read the assigned texts with the *Lectures*, assorted notes (via attachments), and *Discussions* in mind.
- 5) Respond to the *Discussion Board* assignments and comment on 2-3 of your classmates' responses.
- 6) Do all the other assignments on the *Discussion Board* as well and as punctually as you can.
- 7) Take the 3 Exams by the deadline date.
- 8) Stay in close touch by email, always signing your name.

Email Me Immediately To:

- 1) Confirm your attendance.
- 2) Confirm you have read the *Syllabus*.
- 3) Send me your phone number.
- 4) Ask questions.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS

The miscellaneous assignments on the Discussion Board, as well as the short essay Exams, will count toward your Gordon Rule requirement.

EVALUATION

3 Exams = 75%

Discussion Board assignments = 25%

The evaluation of your work and your contributions to the class discussion of the material is a discretionary matter. It is my judgment call whether or not your assignment responses and comments on the material reflect sufficient effort and insight.

EXAMS

- FOUR HOUR TIME LIMIT. OPEN BOOK & OPEN NOTES.
- **3 short essays @ 33 points each**
- Compose thorough, grammatically correct responses to three (3) questions, one from each section. Your responses should: a) adequately address the question (with a clearly stated thesis) and not diverge into tangents; b) be generous with support, including **specific reference to ideas, passages, and quotes from the works in question**; c) be clearly written and express complete thoughts; d) be reflections of your having thought about the readings and not just rote responses with little personal, interpretive insights; e) be at least 350 words apiece.

ACADEMIC HONESTY (PLAGIARISM)

All of your written work must be done solely by you. You may receive outside "tutoring" or editorial assistance, but the actual writing must be your own. Furthermore, you may do, and are, in fact, encouraged to do outside reading and research on your topics. Such research may and should influence your thinking and writing. However, be sure that you do not copy any passages, sentences, phrases, or even specific words from an outside source without quoting them and citing their origin. **Remember: Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism!** Any violation of this policy--a policy that is simply a matter of integrity and honesty--will result in an immediate "F" grade in the class.

* NOTE: Please be aware that I subscribe to the internet's largest, most effective plagiarism detection database. If you copy it from the internet, you will be detected.

Discussion Board

*** VERY IMPORTANT! Discussion Board = Attendance Policy**

This place constitutes our virtual classroom. Thus, you **must attend** a few times a week to read and respond to the weekly assignments. Be sure to also respond to several of your classmate's responses. (If you only post your assignment responses and fail to engage in

the class discussion with your classmates, your DB grade will be a D, at best.) Use your comments as a way of starting a conversation and sharing ideas about the readings and assignments. Be constructive and productive. We're talking to each other here, so relax and say what's on your mind. Just be thoughtful and polite. Make strong comments, but be tactful and considerate of differing viewpoints. Get a read on what everyone else is doing and thinking about the class. Your responses count for 25% of your final grade. Furthermore, **if you miss 3 weeks (any 3 weeks, not necessarily consecutively) of attendance and posting to the DB, you may fail the class. Missing 4 weeks will earn you an automatic F in the class.**

* Important Note: When you post, be sure to post a REPLY to the postings rather than COMPOSE a new one. That will keep the discussion THREADED and easier to manage.

Privacy Statement

Students using online formats for study at HCC do so in a respectful, protected environment. However, this learning environment may at times be viewed by faculty (both current and those learning to become online facilitators), Distance Learning staff, and other experts, who are working with us to maintain the highest quality online courses. We use e-mail to communicate regarding levels of performance and grades. Please understand that this is not a secure, private environment.

Last day to Withdraw with a grade of "W" is .

NOTE: Request For Accommodation: If, to participate in this course, you require an accommodation due to a physical disability or learning impairment, you must contact the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities in the SS Bldg. Rm. 208. 253-7031 (voice line), 253-7035 (TTD), or 253-7336 (fax).

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE *

Weeks 1 & 2

Class Introduction: Syllabus, Schedule, notes on first readings.

"Literature to 1700": p.3-17.

William Bradford: p. 156-57; an excerpt from *Of Plymouth Plantation*, p. 166-175.

Roger Williams: p.226-7; "A Letter to the Town of Providence," p. 237.

"American Literature 1700-1820": p.425-433.

Benjamin Franklin: p. 515-16; "The Way To Wealth," p. 516-22; "Information To Those Who Would Remove to America," p. 528-33.

Powerpoint Lectures: Orientation, Principles of Analysis, and The Basics of Literary Criticism, The Colonial Period

Week 3

J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur: p. 657; "What is an American?" p. 657-67.

PP Lecture: The Major Theories of Literary Criticism

Week 4

Thomas Paine: p. 704-5; "Common Sense," p. 706-12; "The American Crisis," p. 712-18.

PP Lecture: Thomas Paine

Week 5

Thomas Jefferson: p. 725-26; "Declaration of Independence," p. 728-32; "Religion," p. 734-37.

The Federalist: p. 738-47.

PP Lectures: Thomas Jefferson and *The Federalist Papers*

Week 6

☞ **EXAM #1 Must be taken between Sunday 2/12 & Friday 2/17. You have six days to choose from, so there are no exceptions, no extensions, and no makeups without extremely serious and documented reasons.**

Am Lit 1820-1865: p. 957-76.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: p. 1103-6; "The American Scholar," p. 1135-47; "Self-Reliance," p. 1160-76.

Powerpoint Lectures: The American Renaissance, Emerson, Transcendentalism, & Romanticism

Week 7

Continue Emerson.

Henry David Thoreau: p. 1788-92; Selections from *Walden*: "Where I Lived," p. 1850-59; & "Higher Laws," p. 1917-24. Also: "Civil Disobedience," p. 1792-1807; & "Life Without Principle," p. 2016-29.

Powerpoint Lecture: Thoreau

Week 8

Continue Thoreau.

Edgar Allan Poe: p. 1507-10; "The Raven," p. 1518-21; & "Anabel Lee," p. 1524. Plus, "The Tell-Tale Heart," p. 1572-75.

Week 9

Continue Poe.

Nathaniel Hawthorne: p. 1247-50; *The Scarlet Letter*, p. 1358-1474.

PP Lectures: Hawthorne & *The Scarlet Letter*

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11

Continue *The Scarlet Letter*.

Week 12

☞ **EXAM #2 Must be taken between Sunday 3/26 & Friday 3/31. You have six days to choose from, so there are no exceptions, no extensions, and no makeups without extremely serious and documented reasons.**

Frederick Douglass: p. 2029-32; *Narrative of the Life of An American Slave*, p.2032-92.

PP Lecture: Douglass

Week 13

Abraham Lincoln: All Selections, p. 1608-17.

Herman Melville: p. 2287-92; All Chapters from *Moby Dick*, p. 2306-30; "Bartleby, the Scrivener," p. 2330-55.

PP Lecture: Melville

Week 14

Continue Melville

Week 15

Walt Whitman: p. 2127; 10-15 Poems TBA.

PP Lecture: Whitman

Week 16

Emily Dickinson: p. 2499; 10-15 Poems TBA.

PP Lecture: Dickinson

Week 17 ☞ **EXAM #3 Must be taken between Sunday 4/30 & Friday 5/5. You have six days to choose from, so there are no exceptions, no extensions, and no makeups without extremely serious and documented reasons.**

*NOTE: This is a tentative schedule: some selections may be added and/or deleted; exam dates may be moved up or back a class or two. However, any changes will be minor and the total amount of pages to be read will not vary more than +/- 100.

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