

American Literature to 1865 fall 2019

English 3311: American Literature to 1865

CRN: 10981

Instructor: Aarin K. Walston

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Office Hours: Monday 2-5, Wednesday 2-4, and by appointment.

Course Description

This course is a survey of American Literature to 1865. Many of the works we will be reading and analyzing incorporate a range of genres from memoirs and poems to short stories. We will be looking at these works through the lens of historical context and why these works are still relevant today. Many of these texts reflect a need for an identity, both in a national and an individual sense, and how these early writers and speakers viewed themselves and their role in the development of the nation. By the end of this semester, we will be able to identify and understand how these early works shaped the cultural ideals of the United States and why these texts still influence the cultural and political dialogue today.

Required Text

The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Shorter Ninth Edition Vol. 1: Beginnings to 1865
ISBN: 978-0-393-26452-4

Course Objectives

- Students will work with secondary sources to discover historical and theoretical relevancy between the texts and events of the literary time period.
- Students will leave the course with an understanding of tropes and rhetorical devices and how they function in the reading and analytical process.
- Students will learn approaches to poetry and how movements and culture influence form and style.
- Students will be able to pinpoint arguments from secondary sources and how to enter the discussion with their scholarly peers.
- Students will improve their writing skills in organization and structuring their argument in completing a solid paper.

- Students will learn how to introduce textual evidence and explicate why their chosen textual evidence advances the scholarly conversation.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

- **Weekly Reading Responses:** Each week on Thursday you will submit a reading response about one of the works we have read for the week. These responses must be at least 250 words. In these responses, I will be looking at how you are engaging with the texts and perhaps questions you may have about the work. Each response is worth 10 points for a total point value of **150 points**.
- **Exams:** We will have a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. Total for the semester is **200 points**.
- **Paper:** Students will write one 7 to 8-page paper. The student will provide a solid thesis (argument) while using textual evidence and secondary sources to substantiate the argument. Each Student will be allowed to revise the paper for a higher grade. For this revision process, the Student must attach the original paper with my comments to the second draft in order to receive credit. Revisions must be turned in within the following week. **200 points**
- **Attendance:** Each Student is required to participate in daily class discussions; our learning process for this course is a group effort and each of you brings a unique perspective to the texts. Class attendance is required. Everyone has 4 free days=two weeks. Once the student misses the fourth class, each missed class after; the student will have 20 points deducted from their attendance grade. Please do not do outside class work during our class sessions. I will count you doing this as a missed class session. **150 points**

Point Break Down

630-700 A

560-629 B

490-559 C

420-489 D

419 and Below F

Course Policies

- **Deadlines** – Assignment due dates are well marked on the syllabus and, unless a scheduling adjustment is made by me prior to the deadline, they are firm. I do not accept late work.
- **Reading Responses** are due at the beginning of Class. They cannot be turned in after class.
- All work for the course must be completed in good order and on time in order to pass the course. In other words, you cannot simply skip an assignment, take the F, and expect to pass. Students must make every effort to submit each assignment.

- Papers must be typed and double-spaced, with 1" margins. The font must be 12 pts and in Times New Roman. Papers should have your name, the course number, and the date in the upper left-hand corner. The title should be centered below this and the first paragraph should begin, indented, below the title. All written work should be in MLA format.
- I do not drop students-that is your decision. If you feel you need to drop the class, the process will be entirely up to you. But please keep in mind, I am here to help you succeed, if you are having problems please come and see me before you take this action.
- Please use your UTEP email to contact me. I do not open emails from students using an email outside of the UTEP system. If you have never used your UTEP email, please contact the technology department and have them set you up with one.
- When sending an email, please include a subject matter and use professionalism in the language and tone. Emails which do not follow these instructions may not be answered.

Accommodations:

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to visit the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or cass@utep.edu. If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Counseling Center, Military Student Success Center and Academic Advising Center.

Academic Integrity:

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic 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, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Visit the Office of Dean of Students. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs.

Military Students:

If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active) please visit the Military Student Success Center. I also recognize the complexities of being a student veteran. If you are a student veteran, please inform me if you need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran-related developments can complicate your academic life. If you make me aware of a complication, I will do everything I can to assist you or put you in contact with university staff that are trained to assist you.

Please note syllabus may be subject to change

Important Dates:

Aug 26th Classes Begin

Sept 2nd Labor Day No Classes

Sept 11th Fall Census

Oct 4th Graduation Application Deadline

Nov 1st Drop/Withdraw Deadline

Nov 28th and 29th Thanksgiving Holiday-no classes

Dec 6th Dead Day

Dec 18th Grades Due

Dec 19th Grades Posted