

American Literature to 1865 Syllabus Spring 2019

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English 3311: American Literature to 1865

CRN: 20910

Instructor Information: Aarin K. Walston

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Office Location: Worrell Hall Room 307

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-2 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday 2-5 p.m. or by appointment.

Course Description

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

Required Text

The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Shorter Ninth Edition Vol. 1: Beginnings to 1865

ISBN: 978-0-393-26452-4

Course Requirements:

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 150 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 with in the following week. 200 points

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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 fifth class each missed class the student will have 20 points deducted from their attendance grade. 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:

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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 the Syllabus is Subject to change.**

Important Dates for this Semester:

1/22	First day of class
2/6	Census Day – Drop students who have not come to class
3/18-3/22	Spring Break
3/29	C. Chavez Day-no classes
4/5	Spring Drop Day

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4/19	Spring Study Day- no classes
5/10	Dead Day
5/22	Instructor Submits Final Grades
5/23	Grades Posted

Calendar and Readings

Week 1	
1/22	Introduction to class and go over syllabus
1/24	Columbus Letter of Discovery pg. 45 and Letter to Ferdinand and Isabella pg. 51 Smith pages 56-66
Week 2	
1/29	Bradford Of Plymouth Plantation Book 1 73-82 Winthrop A Model of Christian Charity 93-104
1/31	Bradstreet All the poems 114-130 Taylor "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children" 157
Week 3	
2/5	Rowlandson All excerpts 132-152
2/7	Mather The Trial of Martha Carrier 163 Edwards Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God 192
Week 4	
2/12	Franklin The Way to Wealth 208, The Speech of Miss Polly Baker 214, Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America 216
2/14	Freneau On the Religion of Nature 419 Crevecoeur All excerpts 323
Week 5	
2/19	Paine All excerpts 339
2/21	Sargent Murray On the Equality of the Sexes 408 Cherokee Women: To Governor Benjamin Franklin 483
Week 6	
2/26	Equiano All Excerpts 370
2/28	Wheatley All poems 420
Week 7	
3/5	Irving Rip Van Winkle 513,

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	Apess An Indian's Looking Glass for the White Man 545
3/7	Hawthorne Young Goodman Brown 668, The Minister's Black Veil 685
Week 8	
3/12	Bryant The Prairies 541
3/14	Mid Term Exam
Spring Break 3/18-3/22	
Week 9	
3/26	Emerson Nature 553
3/28	Emerson The American Scholar 582, Self-Reliance 596
Week 10	
4/2	Poe Ligeia 739, The Fall of the House of Usher 749
4/4	Poe The Tell-Tale Heart 762, The Black Cat 766 Discuss Paper
Week 11	
4/9	Thoreau Resistance to Civil Government 903
4/11	Fuller All Excerpts 806 Truth Speech to the Women's Rights Convention 832
Week 12	
4/16	Douglass All Excerpts 996
4/18	Watkins Harper All Excerpts 1242 Melville The Portent 1241
Week 13	
4/23	Whitman Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking 1139, When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer 1144, Beat! Beat! Drums 1145, The Wound Dresser 1146, When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd 1148
4/25	
Week 14	
4/30	Melville Bartleby the Scrivener 1157
5/2	Office Hours for Consultation Paper due at 11 p.m. on Black Board. No Class
Week 15	
5/7	Davis Life in the Iron Mills 1277
5/9	Dickinson Poems will be announced

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Week 16	
	Final Exam Thursday May 16th 10 am to 12:45