

American Literature 3311: Spring 2020: 20866

Instructor: Aarin K. Walston

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Office Hours: Monday 11-2, Wednesday 11-4, Thursday 3-5 and by appointment.

Required Texts

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

Weiland and Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist by Charles Brockden Brown; Ed. Bryan Waterman
ISBN: 978-0-393-93253-9

Course Description

This course is an examination of early American texts from the 17th century extending through to the 19th century. Throughout this course, we will be examining the cultural, historical, and social contexts surrounding these texts and why they are still relevant in the 21st century. Some of the questions we will seek to answer in this course are:

1. How do the differing narrative genres influence our understanding of the time period?
2. What were the purposes for writing these texts and who was their intended audience?
3. What role does literature play in shaping cultural identity and national identity?
4. How do American Literature scholars interpret these texts and how do we contribute to the conversation?
5. How do we value, discuss, and interpret these texts in the 21st century?

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to analyze secondary sources, evaluate the information and interpret their findings into a constructive argumentative paper.
2. Students will be able to identify and discuss literary tropes and rhetorical devices from the selected readings and assess the author's purpose and audience and why they used these techniques.
3. Students will be able to execute knowledge of the material through group discussions, class discussions, and writing.
4. Students will be able to employ critical thinking skills by demonstrating their thinking process through weekly writing exercises.
5. Students will be able to compose a precise and articulate response to essay prompts addressing the texts.

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 during the week. All reading responses are submitted through Black Board. These responses must be at least 250 words and no more than 300 words. The requirements and guidelines for the responses are located on Black Board. Each response is worth 10 points for a total point value of **100 points**.
- **Exams:** We will have a final exam. The exam will cover the entire course. I will provide a study guide for the exam. **150 points**.
- **Writing Workshops:** We will have two writing workshops for the papers. Attendance is mandatory and students must have 2 full pages of writing to participate. **100 points**.
- **Paper:** Students will write two 5-page papers. The student will provide a solid thesis (argument) and use textual evidence and secondary sources to substantiate the argument. Each Student will be allowed to revise the paper for a higher grade if the paper is submitted on time. For this revision process, the Student must meet with me to discuss their plan for revision. 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 3 free days**. Once the student misses the third class, each missed class after, the student will have 20 points deducted from their attendance grade. Please do not do other class work during our class sessions. I will count this as a missed class session if you are suspected of breaking this rule. **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. Students must make every effort to submit each assignment.

- Papers and Reading Responses 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. Please allow 48 hours for a response. If you miss a class, do not send me an email asking what you missed, I will not respond. You should speak with me during office hours.
- Be considerate of your peers.

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.

UTEP Food Pantry

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/>

Please note syllabus and calendar may be subject to change

3311 spring 2020 Calendar

Week 1	Reading	Assignment
1/21	Introduction to Class	
1/23	Smith 56-65, Bradford <i>Of Plymouth Plantation Book</i> 1 73-82	Extra Credit Response Introduce Yourself 10 Extra Credit Points

Week 2	Reading	Assignment
1/28	Winthrop A Model of Christian Charity 93-104	
1/30	Rowlandson 132-152	Reading Response 1 10 points

Week 3	Reading	Assignment
2/4	Bradstreet "The Prologue" 114, "The Author to Her Book" 122,	

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	<p>“To My Dear and Loving Husband” 124</p> <p>Discuss the Paper</p>	
2/6	<p>Edwards <i>Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God</i> 192</p>	<p>Reading Response 2 10 points</p>

Week 4	Reading	Assignment
2/11	<p>Franklin The Speech of Miss Polly Baker 214, Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America 216.</p>	
2/13	<p>Crevecoeur All Excerpts 323</p>	<p>Reading Response 3 10 points</p>

Week 5	Reading	Assignment
2/18	<p>Paine 339 All excerpts</p>	
2/20	<p>Sargent Murray <i>On the Equality of the Sexes</i> 408</p>	<p>Reading Response 4 10 points</p>

Week 6	Reading	Assignment
2/25	<p>Equiano All Excerpts 370</p>	
2/27	<p><i>Weiland</i> Chapters 1-4</p>	<p>Reading Response 5 10 points</p>

Week 7	Reading	Assignment
3/3	<p><i>Weiland</i> Chapters 5-15</p>	

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3/5	<i>Weiland</i> Chapters 16-22	Reading Response 6 10 points
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Week 8	Reading	Assignment
3/10	<i>Weiland</i> Chapter 23 to End	
3/12	Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop 50 points Paper 1 due at March 14 th at 11 p.m. on Black Board 100 points

Spring Break March 16th through the 20th.

Week 9	Reading	Assignment
3/24	Irving All Excerpts 513	
3/26	Bryant All Excerpts	Reading Response 7 10 points

Week 10	Reading	Assignment
3/31	Hawthorne Young Goodman Brown 668, Mather All Excerpts 160	
4/2	Hawthorne The Minister's Black Veil 685, The Birth-Mark 694	Reading Response 8 10 points

Week 11	Reading	Assignment
4/7	Poe Ligeia 739, The Fall of the	

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	House of Usher 749	
4/9	Poe The Tell-Tale Heart 762, The Black Cat 766	Reading Response 9 10 points

Week 12	Reading	Assignment
4/14	Douglass 996-1031	
4/16	Douglass 1031-1069	Reading Response 10 10 points

Week 13	Reading	Assignment
4/21	Thoreau Resistance to Civil Government 903 Fuller All excerpts	
4/23	Apess An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man 545, Truth Speech to Women's Rights Convention 832	

Week 14	Reading	Assignment
4/28	Writing Workshop For Paper	Writing Workshop 50 points
4/30	Whitman Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking 1139, Beat! Beat! Drums 1145, The Wound Dresser 1146	Second Paper Due on Saturday May 2 nd at 11 p.m. Submit on Black Board 100 points

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Week 15	Reading	Assignment
5/5	Melville <i>Bartleby the Scrivener</i> 1157	
5/7	Dickinson poems by number: 340, 359, 260, 269	

Week 16	Reading	Assignment
Finals Week		
		Final Exam Thursday May 14 th 1-3:45 p.m. 150 points