

English 5305: American Literature to 1800: The Early Atlantic Novel

Dr. Brian Yothers

Office: Hudspeth 212

Office Hours: T R 12:00-1:20 and by appointment

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Course Description

This is a course in American literature to 1800 with a focus on the novel as it developed in America and in English writing about the Americas in the long eighteenth century. We will also consider the novel's relationship to eighteenth-century periodical culture. You will perform in-depth research into the early American novel and will write an extended scholarly essay on the topic as well as a briefer paper on early American periodical culture. You will gain a broad knowledge of the development of the early American novel through class discussion and your research, and you will hone your research and writing skills in producing graduate-level written work.

Required Texts

Anonymous. *The Woman of Colour: A Tale*. Broadview.

Behn, Aphra. *Oroonoko*: A Norton Critical Edition.

Brackenridge, Hugh Henry. *Modern Chivalry*. Hackett.

Brown, Charles Brockden. *Wieland and Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*. Norton Critical Edition.

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*: A Norton Critical Edition.

Foster, Hannah Webster. *The Coquette and The Boarding School*. Broadview

Rowson, Susanna Haswell. *Charlotte Temple and Lucy Temple*. Penguin.

Rowson, Susanna Haswell. *Sincerity*. Electronic text.

Sansay, Leonora. *Secret History, or the Horrors of St. Domingo and Laura*. Broadview.

Tyler, Royall. *The Algerine Captive*. Modern Library.

Winkfield, Unca Eliza. *The Female American*. Broadview

Additional secondary readings are available online

Course Requirements

Seminar Paper of 15-20 pages (40%)

Short Paper (4-5 pages) on early American periodical culture (20%)

Seminar Paper Proposal (1 page plus 4 page annotated bibliography) (20%)

Response to *Sincerity* (3-5 pages) (10%)

Class Participation (10%)

Detailed assignment sheets will be provided early in the semester for each of the first four components.

Grades

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=0-59%

Attendance/Late Work

More than two absences may result in a reduction of your final grade. I will not accept late work for any reason.

Originality of Work

The work you hand in must be your own. You will receive no credit on any of your assignments for any un-cited material (either directly quoted or paraphrased) from an outside source. Moreover, cases appearing to constitute plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)

If you suspect you may have a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact CASS at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building. You are responsible for providing me with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Email Etiquette

Email is a useful tool if you have questions for me, and emailing me is generally the easiest and most efficient way to make contact outside class. Given that this is a university setting, you should recognize that your emails are documents that represent you professionally, and therefore should rise to certain standards of professional decorum. There are some basic guidelines that you should follow, both in my class and in your other classes.

1. All emails should have a clear subject heading.
2. All emails should have a clear, courteous salutation. "Dear Dr. Yothers:" or "Dear Professor Yothers:" would be appropriate in the case of this class.
3. All emails written for professional purposes should adhere to standard grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.
4. All emails should be signed with your name (otherwise, your reader may not know who you are!)
5. Emails should be sent from your UTEP account. If you do use another account, be sure that the name on the account is appropriate for professional interactions.
6. If there are any attachments, you should explain your reason for sending them and indicate the program in which they were written.
7. You should consider your rhetorical context when emailing. What is the purpose of your email, and how can you most effectively accomplish that purpose? Three particularly important matters to keep in mind are brevity, clarity, and courtesy. If your email is not clear, specific, and to the point, you may not elicit the response you desire. If your email is discourteous, you diminish the professionalism of the persona you present to others. To cite just one example, some professors find emails that include calls for action "ASAP" to be discourteous or even presumptuous.

Emails that do not meet the standards of professionalism, clarity, and courtesy outlined above may well be disregarded.

Departmental Events

While not a course requirement, I encourage you to take advantage of departmental and other events that contribute to the intellectual life of the university. One way of keeping track of these events is to "like" English at UTEP on Facebook.

