

ENGL 3340.003

History of American Literature

Spring 2012

TR 9.30-10.50

Preston Hall 206

Dr. Desirée Henderson

Office: University Hall 223

Office phone: 817.272.3131

Email: dhenderson@uta.edu

Office hours: Wed 10-12 or by appointment

Course webpage: <http://3340amlit.wordpress.com>

All assignments, announcements, and updates to the course schedule will be posted on this site. Students should consult it frequently for the most up-to-date information on the course.

Required Books: *Bedford Anthology of American Literature*, Vols 1 & 2. Susan Belasco and Linck Johnson, eds. Bedford/St. Martin's.

VOL 1 ISBN: 978-0312482992

VOL 2 ISBN: 978-0312412081

Course Description:

This class provides students with a broad introduction to American literature from the 17th century to the present. Students will be exposed to major texts, authors, and movements from American literary history. They will read a variety of literary genres, including political documents, journals, essays, autobiographies, poetry, short stories, and novels. The breadth of the course and the variety of the reading allow students to gain an understanding of the role that literature played in both constructing and reflecting the development of the nation. The course is organized around a selection of "key texts" – works of American literature that exemplify a time period, literary movement, or issue – and "clusters" of other works that either serve as context for, respond to, demonstrate the influence of, or contrast with the key text.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Explain the meanings of American literary texts.
- Define and apply critical and literary terms.
- Apply different and appropriate critical frameworks to the analysis of literary texts.
- Identify and explain the historical, literary, or social/political context(s) of assigned texts.
- Explain and analyze how context shapes the composition, reception and

interpretation of texts.

- Locate, explicate, and apply literary criticism to textual analysis.

Grading Policy/Requirements:

Theater Assignment 5%

Participation 10%

3 Writing Assignments = 10 / 15 / 20%

Midterm 20%

Final Exam 20%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: Three writing assignments (3-5 pages), a midterm and final exam make up the major assignments. Due dates are provided below. Assignment parameters and due dates are subject to change.

Theater Assignment: All students are required to attend a play this semester, either on campus or off. Additional information regarding the event and assignment will be provided.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. Students are granted 2 unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. *Points will be deducted from the student's final grade.* In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.

of Unexcused Absences = Points Deducted

0-2 = 0

3 = 2

4 = 4

Excessive absences (5 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.

Participation: Class participation is a very important part of this class. Good participation can significantly improve your course grade. This includes: participating in class discussion, asking questions, responding to questions, attending office hours, being polite and respectful to classmates, and generally being alert and interested.

Late Policy: All assignments are deducted 5 points every class day they are late, with 10 points per weekend. No missed quizzes, homework, or in-class assignments can be made up. Missed exams can only be made up with evidence of family or medical emergency. *Assignments will not be accepted over email unless specified by the professor.* Assignments submitted over email are not considered "turned in" until a hard copy has been received.

Electronics Policy: TURN CELL PHONES OFF BEFORE CLASS. No electronic items of any kind, including laptops, tape recorders, MP3 players, tablet computers, cell phones, etc. should be used during class without instructor permission. Violating this rule can affect your Participation grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic 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, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. *Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.* Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

English 3340 PLAGIARISM POLICY: I hold students to the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism of any kind will result in strict penalties, including the possibility of failing the course.

Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism occurs whenever a student quotes, paraphrases or summarizes another person's work without providing correct citation. Plagiarism occurs whether the text quoted is a book, article, website, reader's guide like Cliffs Notes or Sparks Notes, another student's paper, or any other source. An entire essay is considered fraudulent even if only a single sentence is plagiarized.

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

There are two ways to avoid plagiarism:

1. Develop your own opinions and arguments whenever you write papers or exams.
2. Whenever you refer to another person's ideas or words, use proper citation to give them credit. Most English classes will require you to use MLA Citation Form. For information about MLA Form, consult your instructor or any writing handbook, particularly the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Further instruction in MLA Citation will be provided in class.

Consequences for Plagiarism

Students who commit plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the fraudulent assignment and be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Students may incur further penalties including the possibility of a failing grade for the course.

Students will turn in all Writing Assignments through SafeAssign, a plagiarism-detection software available through Blackboard.

ENGL 3340 Reading & Assignment Schedule

All reading is from the *Bedford Anthology of American Literature* Vol. 1 or 2, unless otherwise indicated. I have provided only the first page number of each reading assignment but students should, naturally, read the entire selection. Likewise, students should always read the brief introductions to each selection. Page notations indicate which volume the reading is in: for example, vol. 1, pp. 12 = (I.12).

I. Colonial Period

Week One

1/17 Introduction

1/19 "Colonial Settlements" (I.93); Rowlandson, *Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (I.190-209)

Week Two

1/24 Rowlandson, *Sovereignty* (I.210-228)

1/26 Winthrop, "Modell of Christian Charity" (I.153); Bradstreet, poems (I.167)

Week Three

1/31 Cabeza de Vaca, *Narrative* (I.74); Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (I.987)

2/2 Criticism Assignment #1 due

Michelle Burnham, "The Journey Between: Liminality and Dialogism in Mary White Rowlandson's Captivity Narrative" *Early American Literature* 28.1 (Mar 1993): 60-75. See Criticism Assignment #1 for information about how to retrieve this article.

II. Early National Period

Week Four

2/7 "American Literature, 1750-1830" (I.312); Franklin, *Autobiography* (I.340-360)

2/9 Writing Assignment #1 due

Franklin, *Autobiography* (I.361-71); Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence" (I.447)

Week Five

2/14 Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (I.973)

2/16 Griffiths, "Female Patriots" (I.436); Wheatley, poems (I.503)

Week Six

2/28 "American Literature, 1830-1865" (I.588); Douglass, *Narrative* (I.855-922)

3/1 Midterm

III. The Nineteenth Century

Week Seven

2/28 Whitman, "Song of Myself" (I.1234)

3/1 Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" (I.1074)

Special Event: Women's History Month Lecture Series, events scheduled throughout March. For more information: www.uta.edu/womens-studies

Week Eight

3/6 Dickinson, all poems (I.1312)

3/8 "Whitman Through a Modern Lens" incl. Hughes, "Old Walt" and Ginsberg, "Supermarket" (I.1309); Ginsberg, "Howl" (II.1315); Pound, "A Pact" (II.641)

Spring Break 3/12-16

Week Nine

3/20 Criticism Assignment #2 due.

Reading TBA

3/22 Whitman, *Drum-Taps* poems (I.1294) and "When Lilacs Last" (I.1299); Piatt, "Arlington Heights" (I.1382); Harper, "Learning to Read" (I.1386)

IV. Literary Modernisms

Week Ten

3/27 Writing Assignment #2 due

"Modernisms in American Poetry" (II.529); Pound "A Few Don'ts" (II.542); Eliot, "Tradition" (II.549); Stevens, "Anecdote of the Jar," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" and "Of Modern Poetry" (II.605); Moore, "Poetry" (both versions; II.658)

3/29 Lowell, "Aubade" (II.575); Frost, "Birches" (II.581); Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (II.641); Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (II.672)

Special Event: English Department Hermanns Lecture Series: "Animal Studies and Posthumanism" March 30, 2012. Details TBA.

March 30 Last Day to Drop

Week Eleven

4/3 Williams, "Red Wheelbarrow" and "This is Just" (II.626); cummings, "[in Just]" and "[Buffalo Bill's]" (II.716); Hughes, "Negro Speaks of Rivers" and "I, Too" (II.752)

4/5 Faulkner, "That Evening Sun" (II.948)

Week Twelve

4/10 Hemingway, "Big Two Hearted River" (II.976)

4/12 Class cancelled

V. Literary Postmodernisms

Week Thirteen

4/17 Criticism Assignment #3 due

Reading TBA

4/19 "American Literature since 1945" (II.1038); Barthelme, "The School" (II.1360)

Week Fourteen

4/24 Writing Assignment #3 due

Delillo, "Videotape" (IL.1421)

4/26 Theater Assignment due

Bachelder, "Deep Wells, USA" (handout)

Week Fifteen

5/1 Reading TBA

5/3 Review

Final Exam: Thursday May 10, 8-10:30 am