

ENGL 3340.002: History of American Literature

Spring 2016
MWF 10-10:50am
COBA 139

Professor: Dr. Desiree Henderson

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1-3pm and by appointment

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, essays, autobiographies, poetry, and short fiction. 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.

Required Book:

The Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Shorter Edition. Eds. Belasco and Johnson. Bedford. ISBN: 978-0-312-59713-9

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.
- 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.
- Apply the knowledge gained in the course to ongoing social issues and debates.

COURSE POLICIES

Grade Policy/Requirements:

iRATs (6) = 5%

tRATs (6) = 10%

Peer Evaluations (2) = 5%

Theater Assignment = 5%

Problem Papers (3) = 15%

Test 1 = 15%

Test 2 = 20%

Final Exam = 25%

Team Based Learning: This course implements a team-based learning pedagogy. The specific nature of this course design (and the meaning of the assignments listed above) will be explained in class but students should be prepared for the fact that they will be working in teams throughout the semester, and that part of their grade will be based on their contributions to their teams.

Theater Assignment: All students are required to attend a play this semester. There will be both on-campus and off-campus options. Additional information regarding this assignment will be provided.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: There will be two tests and a Final Exam, dates listed below on the Reading and Assignment Schedule. Students will also write 3 short “problem papers” (2-3 pages). All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, my policy is as follows:

Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. I will take attendance in every class.

Perfect Attendance	Students who attend every class (have 0 absences and no late arrivals) will have 2 additional points <i>added</i> to their final course grade. Any absences, including excused absences, will exclude the student from these bonus points.	
Allowed Absences	Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester without penalty.	
Unexcused Absences	Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. <i>Points will be deducted from the student’s final course grade.</i>	
	# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
	1-3	0
	4	3
	5	5

Excused Absences	<i>DO NOT claim excused absences until you have exceeded your 3 allowed absences.</i> 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. Do not submit absence paperwork over email. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.
Excessive Absences	Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional nine hours per weeks of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Late Policy: Problem Papers will be accepted late with a penalty of 5 points per class session, 10 points per weekend. No missed iRATS or tRATS can be made up. Tests and Final Exam can only be made up with evidence of a medical or family emergency.

Electronics Policy: Students are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully during class, which means that everyone turns cell phones off before class and refrains from texting or other disruptive behavior during class. E-book readers and tablets are allowed in class only for the purpose of displaying the assigned readings. Laptops and cellphones are not allowed during class, unless specifically announced. Violation of this policy can affect your course grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

Library Resources: Our Subject Librarian is Jody Bailey. Her contact information is: jbailey@uta.edu Ph: 817.272.7516 <http://libguides.uta.edu/profile/jodybailey>

The Writing Center: The English Writing Center is located in Room 411 Central Library. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Students must register and can make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Face-to-Face and online appointments for undergraduate students are scheduled for 20, 40, or 60 minutes. Writing Center consultants assist with any aspect of academic writing, from understanding an assignment, brainstorming, revising an early draft, to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; consultants will not correct grammar or rewrite assignments during our long sessions. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for more information about services and guidelines.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located down the hallway. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the

stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

ENGL 3340 Reading & Assignment Schedule

All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

All reading is from the *Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Shorter Edition*, unless otherwise indicated. In many cases, I have provided only the first page number of the reading assignment but students should, naturally, read the entire selection. Likewise, students should always read the brief introductions to each assigned text.

- Students must complete assigned reading before class and come prepared to discuss.
- Students must bring either a hardcopy or electronic copy of assigned reading to class on the day it is being discussed. E-book readers or tablets are allowed in class for this purpose; laptops and cellphones are not.

I. Colonial Period

1/20 Introduction

1/22 "Literature to 1750" (2-27); Columbus "Letter" (64); Equiano, "Interesting Narrative" (359)

1/25 **iRAT and tRAT #1**

"Colonial Settlements" (91-103); Rowlandson, *Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (169)

1/27 Rowlandson (cont.)

1/29 Winthrop, "Modell of Christian Charity" (136)

2/1 Bradstreet, all poems (150) and "Bradstreet Through a Modern Lens" (166)

2/3 Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (796)

2/5 **Problem Paper #1 due**

II. Early National Period

2/8 **iRAT and tRAT #2**

"American Literature, 1750-1830" (260-283); "Writing American Lives" (285-290); Franklin, *Autobiography* (290)

2/10 Franklin (cont.)

2/12 Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence" (387); Wheatley, all poems (427)

2/15 “Amelia or the Faithless Briton” (online): http://www.common-place.org/justteachone/?page_id=81

2/17 Hawthorne, “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” (782)

2/19 **Test #1**

III. The Nineteenth Century

2/22 **iRAT and tRAT #3**

“American Literature, 1830-1865” (484-501); Douglass, *Narrative* (700) and “Douglass through a Modern Lens” (768)

2/24 Douglass (cont.)

2/26 Emerson, “Self Reliance” (555)

2/29 **Mid-semester Peer Reviews due**

Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener” (876)

3/2 Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (623)

3/4 Whitman, “Song of Myself” (973) and “Whitman Through a Modern Lens” (1040)

3/7 Dickinson, poems #67, 241, 252, 258, 303, 324, 465, 709, 754, 986 (1043) and “Dickinson Through a Modern Lens” (1070)

3/9 Lincoln, “Gettysburg Address” (1088); Whitman, “Beat! Beat! Drums” (1027), “Vigil Strange” (1028), “When Lilacs Last” (1032); Dickinson, poems 409, 444 (1043)

3/11 **Problem Paper #2 due**

Spring Break March 14-18

IV. Turn of the Century

3/21 **iRAT and tRAT #4**

“American Literature, 1865-1914” (1102-1129) and “Realism, Regionalism, and Naturalism: Introduction” (1131-1139); Chesnutt, “The passing of Grandison” (1273)

3/23 Chesnutt (cont.)

3/25 Drieser, "Butcher Rogaum's Door" (1364)

3/28 Jewett, "A White Heron" (1254)

3/30 Zikala-Sa, "School Days" (1409)

4/1 **Test #2**

V. Literary Modernisms

4/4 **iRAT and tRAT #5**

"American Literature, 1914-1945" (1482-1509); Hemingway, "Big Two Hearted River" (1871)

4/6 Hemingway (cont.)

4/8 Faulkner, "That Evening Sun" (1843) and "Toni Morrison on Faulkner" (1869)

4/11 Hurston, "Gilded Six-Bits" (1788) and "Alice Walker on Zora Neale Hurston" (1800)

4/13 "Modernisms in American Poetry" (1511-19); Stevens, "Anecdote of the Jar," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" and "Of Modern Poetry" (1570); Moore, "Poetry" (both versions; 1614)

4/15 Lowell, "Aubade" (1554); Williams, "Red Wheelbarrow" and "This is Just" (1596); Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (1602); cummings, "[in Just]" and "[Buffalo Bill's]" (1672)

4/18 Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1626)

4/20 McKay, "If We Must Die" and "The Lynching" (1661); Hughes, "Negro Speaks of Rivers" and "I, Too" (1693);

4/22 **Problem Paper #3 due**

Modernist poetry (cont.)

VI. Literary Postmodernisms

4/25 **iRAT and tRAT #6**

"American Literature since 1945" (1943-63) and "From Modernism to Postmodernism" (1965-77); Barthelme, "The School" (2147)

4/27 Ginsberg, "Howl" (2117)

4/29 **Theater Assignment due**

Delillo, "Videotape" (2205)

5/2 Johnson, "26 Monkeys" (handout)

5/4 Alexie, "What You Pawn I will Redeem" (2298)

5/6 End-of-Semester Peer Review due

Final Exam = Monday May 9, 8-10:30am

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.
