

ENGL 3340.001: **History of American Literature**  
Spring 2019  
Monday/Wednesday 2:30-3:50pm  
TH 21

**Instructor:** Dr. Désirée Henderson

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 11am-12pm and by appointment

**Course Description:** This class provides students with a broad introduction to American literature from the 17<sup>th</sup> 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

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

- Analyze the meanings of individual American literary texts.
- Identify and explain the historical, literary, or socio-political significance of assigned texts.
- Identify and critically interpret connections between texts across history.
- Utilize expertise and understanding to develop informed academic arguments about and/or creative analysis of American literary history.

**Grade Policy/Requirements:**

Contemporary Connections (P/NP)	5%
Fill-in-the-Blank Syllabus Assignment (P/NP)	10%
Theater Assignment (P/NP)	10%
Problem Papers (3)	15% each
Final Project	30%

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:**

Descriptions of all major assignments, including grading schemas and rubrics, can be found on the individual assignment prompts on Blackboard. Due dates are indicated on the Reading and Assignment Schedule below. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Pass/No Pass Grading:** Some assignments this semester are graded according to a Pass/No Pass schema (labeled P/NP above). Students who successfully complete all components of the assignment guidelines will receive a grade of Pass (95 points). Students who do not successfully complete any component(s) of the assignment guidelines will receive No Pass (0 points). All other assignments are graded using a standard grading schema, with rubrics provided.

**Theater Assignment:** All students are required to attend a play this semester outside of scheduled class time. There are both on-campus and off-campus options.

**Attendance Policy:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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, I have established the following attendance policy:

*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, please write Dr. H an email that clearly identifies the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.	

Excessive Absences	<b>Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.</b>
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However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Late Policy:** Problem Papers and the Final Project will be accepted late, with a grade penalty as spelled out in the grading rubric of each assignment. All other assignments, graded Pass/No Pass, are not accepted late, as on-time submission is one of the criteria for receiving a Passing grade.

**Extra Credit:** I offer Extra Credit to students who attend specific on-campus events. I will announce these events in class and on Blackboard. For details, see the “Extra Credit Policy” document on Blackboard.

**Technology in the Classroom Policy:** Please be respectful about your technology use in the classroom. I encourage you to put laptops, tablets, e-book readers, and/or phones out of sight, unless you are using them for class purposes. I reserve the right to ask students to put away these devices, which I will do if we are completing work for which access to technology is neither useful nor beneficial, or if technology use is causing distraction to the student or to the class as a whole.

## 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://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT 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), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) <http://www.uta.edu/disability/> or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability/).

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** <http://www.uta.edu/caps/> or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or [titleix@uta.edu](mailto:titleix@uta.edu)

**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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

**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>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** For semester-long courses, 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 and up the stairs. 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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/success-programs/programs/resource-hotline.php>

**The IDEAS Center** (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at <http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS>, or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center** (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor **Academic Plaza** offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and

various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

**Library & Research Assistance:** University-level research requires university-level sources. Appropriate sources include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and credible news magazines and newspapers. The UTA Library <http://library.uta.edu/> offers a plethora of resources and subject specialists to help you select and locate appropriate sources. Find library staff at the Service Zone on the first floor of the UTA Central Library, by phone at (817) 272-3395, by text at (817) 727-8395, email at AskUs@uta.edu, or the chat widget on the library's homepage, <http://library.uta.edu/>. For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit: <http://libguides.uta.edu/>.

Your librarian is Diane Shepelwich, dianec@uta.edu. Diane is available through email, individual or group meetings, or phone appointments. If you need help getting started with your research or course assignment or have questions along the way, please contact Diane for personalized research assistance.

<p><b>Emergency Phone Numbers:</b> In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at <b>817-272-3003</b> (non-campus phone), <b>2-3003</b> (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>
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## ENGL 3340 Reading and 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 most cases, I have provided only the first page number of the reading assignment but students should read the entire selection. Likewise, students should always read the brief introductions to each assigned author/text.

You will see numerous blank spaces on the syllabus. Refer to the Fill-in-the-Blank Syllabus Assignment prompt on Blackboard for an explanation. Students will be notified about the assigned reading on these days at least two weeks in advance.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
1/14	Introduction: Asking Questions About Literary History		* Many assignments in the class are distributed across the semester, so students should fill in their individual deadlines on the relevant dates, once assigned.
<b>Unit #1: The Colonial Period</b>			
1/16	Discovery Myths	"Literature to 1750" (2-27) Columbus "Letter" (64) Handsome Lake, "How America was Discovered" (on Blackboard)	
1/21	MLK Holiday – Class canceled		
1/23	The Captivity Narrative	"Colonial Settlements" (91-103) Rowlandson, <i>Sovereignty and Goodness of God</i> (169)	
1/28	Puritan Imaginings	Winthrop, "Modell of Christian Charity" (136) Bradstreet, "The Prologue," "The Author to her Book," and "Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House" (150) and "Bradstreet Through a Modern	

		Lens" (166)	
1/30	Puritan Re-imaginings	Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (796)	
2/4	Contemporary Connections		Connections 1 & 2 Problem Paper #1 due by midnight
<b>Unit #2: The Early National Period</b>			
2/6	Defining America	"American Literature, 1750-1830" (260-283) "Writing American Lives" (285-290) Franklin, <i>Autobiography</i> (290)	
2/11		1) _____ 2) _____	
2/13		3) _____ 4) _____	
2/18	Gothic Americana	Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (782)	
2/20	Contemporary Connections		Connections 3 & 4
<b>Unit #3: The Nineteenth Century</b>			
2/25	Redefining American	"American Literature, 1830-1865" (484-501) Douglass, <i>Narrative</i> (700) "Douglass through a Modern Lens" (768)	
2/27		5) _____ 6) _____	
3/4		7) _____ 8) _____	
3/6		9) _____ 10) _____	

3/11 3/13	Spring Break – classes canceled		
3/18	Contemporary Connections		Connections 5 & 6
<b>Unit #4: Turn of the Century</b>			
3/20	Old Stories, New Forms	“American Literature, 1865-1914” (1102-1129) and “Realism, Regionalism, and Naturalism: Introduction” (1131-1139) Chesnutt, “The Passing of Grandison” (1273)	Problem Paper #2 due by midnight
3/25		11) _____ 12) _____	
3/27		13) _____ 14) _____	
4/1	Contemporary Connections		Connections 7 & 8
<b>Unit #5: Modernism</b>			
4/3	What is modernism?	“American Literature, 1914-1945” (1482-1509) Stevens, “Of Modern Poetry” (1581) Williams, “The Red Wheelbarrow” (1596) Moore, “Poetry” (both versions) (1614-15) Cullen, “Yet Do I Marvel” (1701)	
4/8		15) _____ 16) _____	
4/10		17) _____ 18) _____	Last day for Unessay Proposals (optional)
4/15	Contemporary Connections		Connections 9 & 10

<b>Unit #6: Postmodernism</b>			
4/17	What is postmodernism?	“American Literature since 1945” (1943-63) and “From Modernism to Postmodernism” (1965-77) Barthelme, “The School” (2147)	Problem Paper #3 due by midnight
4/22		19) _____ 20) _____	Theater Assignment due by midnight
4/24		21) _____ 22) _____	
4/29		TBA	
5/1	Last Day of Class: The Future of American Literary History		
			Final Projects due Monday May 6 by midnight