American Literature I

Brian Kamsoke
Collin College

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Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/english_syllabifall2018/371
Course Number: ENGL 2327.WC1
Course Title: American Literature I
Instructor: Brian Kamsoke
Contact: BKamsoke@collin.edu

NOTE: I do not hold office hours, but I am available for consults via e-mail and will respond to e-mail within 24 hours, though response time might lag during weekends. Review your assignments well in advance of due dates so that you’re not trying to contact me with questions about an assignment hours before it’s due.

Department office contact in case of emergencies: The department office contact in case of emergencies is: Office of Academic Affairs, B-122 G 214.491.6270

Class Information: This class is completely online; there are no in-class meeting times.

Minimum Student Skills: Students should be proficient in navigating the Internet, uploading, downloading files, using email, and be familiar with the menus and routines in the Canvas Learning Management System. Proficiency in word-processing software is considered fundamental.

NOTE: Online courses require a stronger commitment on the part of the student. Because online courses provide very limited live contact with the instructor, you, as the student, must take on the responsibility of assuring that you explore and study the various lessons associated with each assignment. So, if you do not have the appropriate motivation and time-management skills required for this online learning environment, perhaps you should consider switching to a traditional classroom setting.

Course Description: A survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement through the Civil War. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character.

Course Credit Hours: 3
Lecture Hours: 3
Prerequisite: ENGL 1302 or ENGL 2311
Course Resources: Course content is provided within the individual modules; in addition, students are required to use the text listed below.


NOTE: You will find used copies of this book at the Central Park College Book Store; don’t attempt to pass this class without obtaining a copy of this text, for failure to obtain a copy may result in failure in this class.

Course Supplies: Pen, notebook, folder for organizing papers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

• State-mandated Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods. (Social Responsibility)
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature. (Critical Thinking and Communication Skills)

• Additional Collin Outcome: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate personal responsibility through the ethical use of intellectual property. (Personal Responsibility)

Method of Evaluation:

Two essays @ 150 points each = 300
Eight quizzes = 300
Four reading responses @ 50 points each = 200
Thirteen discussion posts & responses = 200
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 1,000

Standardized Grading:

900 – 1000 = A
800 – 899 = B
700 – 799 = C
600 – 699 = D
Below 600 = F

Instructor Feedback: I will respond in the comment box with feedback to each of your assignments within one week of submission. Feedback on quizzes is immediate.

Discussion Posts: See Discussion Post grading rubric within this module for how I will evaluate your discussion posts. Although I won’t always respond to each individual discussion post, I will respond within the discussion itself.

Essay Assignments: See Literary Essay rubric within this module for how I will evaluate your essays, response papers, and journal assignments.

Due Dates: Assignments are due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. No late assignments accepted.

Attendance Policy: This is a distance-learning course that is taught completely online using the Canvas Learning Management System — no onsite course attendance is required. Students are considered “attending” online by submitting their written assignments by the deadlines specified in the course syllabus and in the Canvas courseware.

Withdrawal Policy: To receive a W in the course, you must formally withdraw in the Registrar’s Office. Students who do not withdraw will receive a performance grade. See the current Collin Registration Guide for last day to withdraw.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-D140 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

Collin College Academic Policies:

Scholastic Dishonesty
From the Collin Student Handbook, Chapter 6: Student Code of Conduct Violations

Every member of the Collin College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted for credit is expected to be the student’s own work. Collin College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student or prospective student accused of scholastic dishonesty. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list, and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any misconduct through electronic or computerized means. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to, one (1) or more of the following acts.

1. **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, having access to unauthorized materials or electronic, digital media, telecommunication, and/or wearable devices (i.e., phones, smart watches, Fitbits, Bluetooth devices, tablets, etc.) during an examination; the giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; using someone else’s work for an assignment as if it were one’s own; submitting or resubmitting an assignment in whole or in part (i.e., recycling an assignment) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from each of the professors; using annotated texts or teacher’s editions; using information about exams posted on the Internet or in any electronic medium; leaving a test site without authority; failing to secure test materials; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

2. **Collusion** includes, but is not limited to, intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty; failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance; unauthorized collaboration or communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or course assignment; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

3. **General Scholastic Dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment, credit or class work, research, or the award of a degree; and/or falsifying academic records or documents. Students are expected to record honestly and accurately the results of all their research. Falsification of research results shall include misrepresentations, distortions, or omissions in data or reports on research.

4. **Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to, intentionally or unintentionally failing to quote and cite an author’s words, information, and/or ideas in accordance with American Psychological Association (APA) Style, Modern Language Association (MLA) Style, The Chicago Manual of Style (Chicago Style), or another citation style approved by the professor.
**Note:** I do not allow students to resubmit work done for another class or institution for assignments in this class. Failure to comply with any of the above Academic Policies may result in expulsion from this class.

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**WEEKLY CLASS AGENDA**

**WEEK 1 - Aug 27 to Aug 31**

**View:**

- Powerpoint presentation: Colonial Literature
- Powerpoint presentation: John Smith
- Powerpoint presentation: John Smith & Richard Frethorne

**In your text, read:**

- Introduction, pages 3-17
- Timeline, pages 18-19
- The Iroquois Creation Story, pages 20-23

(expect a quiz by the end of next week on the above readings)

- John Smith, pages 57-72
- Frethorne’s "Our Plantation is Very Weak" (see link in powerpoint)

(expect to participate in a discussion next week on the above readings)

**Assignments due:**

- If you have any questions about the syllabus, e-mail me at BKamsoke@collin.edu.
- Respond to the discussion post by the deadline: Friday, Aug. 31, by 11:59 p.m.

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**WEEK 2 - Sept 1 to Sept 7**

**Read:**

- Lecture notes on John Smith & Richard Frethorne
- Lecture notes on William Bradford

**View:**
- Powerpoint Presentation: Puritans
- Powerpoint Presentation: Plymouth Pilgrims
- Powerpoint presentation: William Bradford

In your text, read:

- William Bradford, pages 72-90

Assignments due:

- Complete Quiz #1 by the deadline: Friday, Sept 7, at 11:59 p.m.
- Respond to the discussion post by the deadline: Friday, Sept 7, at 11:59 p.m.

WEEK 3 - Sept 8 to Sept 14

View:

- Powerpoint Presentations: Anne Bradstreet
- Powerpoint Presentations: Mary Rowlandson

In your text, read:

- Anne Bradstreet, pages 110-126
- Mary Rowlandson, pages 126-143

Read:

- Lecture notes on Anne Bradstreet (five of them)
- Lecture notes on Mary Rowlandson

Assignment due:

- Discussion Post #3
- Journal Response #1 (you might want to complete this first before delving into Bradstreet and Rowlandson)

WEEK 4 - Sept 15 to Sept 21

In your text, read:

- American Literature 1700-1820, pages 157-169 (quiz next week)
- Pontiac: Speech at Detroit, pages 222-224
• Tecumseh: Speech to the Osages, pages 231-233

Read:

• Lecture notes on Pontiac
• Lecture notes on Tecumseh

Assignment due:

• Discussion post #4
• Journal Response #2 (you might want to complete this first before delving into this week’s reading assignments)

Special note: Review guidelines for Essay #1 (due next week, Friday, at 11:59 p.m.)

WEEK FIVE - Sept 22 to Sept 28

View:

• Powerpoint Presentation: The 18 Century
• Powerpoint Presentation: Benjamin Franklin

In your text, read:

• Benjamin Franklin, pages 234-308

Read:

• Lecture notes on Benjamin Franklin

Assignment due:

• Discussion post #5
• Submit Essay #1
• Quiz: American Literature 1700-1820 Introduction

WEEK SIX- Sept 29 to Oct 5

View:

• Powerpoint Presentation: Crevecoeur (two of them)

In your text, read:
• J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur, pages 308-323

Read:
• Lecture notes on Crevecoeur (two of them)

Assignment due:
• Discussion post #6

WEEK SEVEN - Oct 6 to Oct 12

View:
• Powerpoint Presentation: Thomas Jefferson

In your text, read:
• Thomas Paine, pages 323-336
• Thomas Jefferson, pages 337-344

Read:
• Lecture notes on Thomas Jefferson

Assignment due:
• Discussion post #7
• Quiz: Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense”

Special note: Review guidelines for Journal Response #3 due next week.

WEEK EIGHT - Oct 13 to Oct 19

Watch:
• Video: American Romanticism

View:
• Powerpoint Presentation: American Romanticism
• Powerpoint Presentation: Washington Irving
In your text, read:

- American Literature 1820-1865 Introduction, pages 445-466
- Washington Irving, pages 467-482

Read:

- Lecture notes on “Toward a Definition of American Gothic Literature”
- Lecture notes on Washington’s “Rip Van Winkle”

Assignment due:

- Journal Response #3
- Discussion post #8
- Quiz: American Literature 1820-1865 Introduction

WEEK NINE - Oct 20 to Oct 26

Watch:

- Video: The American Transcendentalists

View:

- Powerpoint presentation: Ralph Waldo Emerson

In your text, read:

- Emerson, pages 505-536, 549-566

Read:

- Lecture notes on Ralph Waldo Emerson

Assignment due:

- Discussion post #9
- Quiz: Emerson’s “Nature”

WEEK TEN - Oct 27 to Nov 2

View:
• Powerpoint presentations: Nathaniel Hawthorne
• Powerpoint presentation: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In your text, read:

• Hawthorne’s “Young Goodman Brown (pg. 619), “The Minister’s Black Veil” (pg. 636), and “The Birth-Mark” (pg. 645).
• Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, pages 656-665

Read:

• Lecture notes on Hawthorne (three of them)
• Lecture notes on Longfellow (two of them)

Assignment due:

• Discussion post 10

WEEK ELEVEN - Nov 3 to Nov 9

Watch:

• Video: Edgar Allen Poe: A concise biography

View:

• Powerpoint presentation: Edgar Allan Poe (two of them)

In your text, read:

• Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Raven” (pg. 688), “The Fall of the House of Usher” (pg. 702), “The Tell-Tale Heart” (pg. 714), and “The Black Cat” (pg. 718).

Read:

• Lecture notes on Poe’s “Fall of the House of Usher”

Assignment due:

• Discussion post #11
• Journal Response #4
WEEK TWELVE - Nov 10 to Nov 16

View:

• Powerpoint presentation: Henry David Thoreau

In your text, read:

• Thoreau, pages 839-934

Assignments due:

• Discussion post #12
• Quiz: Thoreau’s Walden

WEEK 13 - Nov 17 to Nov 23

View:

• Powerpoint presentation: Harriet Jacobs

In your text, read:

• Harriet Jacobs, pages 818-839

Read:

• Lecture notes on Harriet Jacobs (two of them)

Assignments due:

• Quiz: Harriet Jacobs

WEEK 14 - Nov 24 to Nov 30

Watch:

• Video: Walt Whitman: A concise biography
• Video: Emily Dickinson: A concise biography

View:

• Powerpoint presentation: Walt Whitman
• Powerpoint presentation: Emily Dickinson

**In your text, read:**

• Walt Whitman, pages 1005-1088  
• Emily Dickinson, pages 1189-1218

**Read:**

• Lecture notes on Walt Whitman (two of them)  
• Lecture notes on Emily Dickinson

**Assignments due:**

• Discussion post #13

**Special note:** Review guidelines for your final essay (essay #2) due next week

**WEEK FIFTEEN - Dec 1 to Dec 7**

**Assignments due:**

• Essay #2  
• Final quiz

* NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change, and I will post announcements whenever such changes are made.