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American Literature I

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Collin College

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COLLIN COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2018

Course Number: ENGL 2327

Course Title: American Literature I

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

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)

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor's Name: Professor Young

Office Hours: By appointment only (Available for appointments before or after class.)

Email: LYoung@collin.edu (Best way to reach me.)

Class Information: Section Number: S03 / Meeting Times: MWF 10:00-10:50 / Room: BB231

Textbook & Software Requirements: (Required) → 978-0-393-26454-8, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Vol A & B, 9th ed., 2016, Levine, W.W. Norton

Netiquette Expectations:

- Use standard American English and proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Do not type in all upper case letters.

- All subject lines for emails for this class should read: John Smith ENGL XXXX-XXX (your name instead of John Smith, of course, and your section number)
- Use courteous language and tone; write professionally—all college writing is business formal, not something you send to friends or family.
- Never use email for criticizing people or their work.
- Do not post messages that may be offensive to others; do not refer to personal homepages; your messages need to be course-related without offensive material, especially in a message that goes to the entire class.
- Remember email messages/postings may be viewed by classmates or even minor children, so do not post offensive material or material that might be considered offensive by minors, other adults, or parents.
- Never use email/postings to communicate if you are angry or frustrated with a person.
- Standards of courtesy and respect must be maintained at all times in our online classroom. Join in to the discussion, but remember that this is still an academic setting and respect and consideration are crucial for any intellectual discussion.
- Discussion areas are the place for intelligent and respectful airing of ideas. Name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted.
- Any violation of the standards of appropriate behavior online will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.
- Emails not adhering to the email expectations outlined in the syllabus will be returned with the requirement that they are revised to meet email communications guidelines before a response is given. Email etiquette is an important part of the professional world—follow instructions the first time and get your answer more quickly! Again, emails regarding grades will NOT be responded to if they do not come from a Collin College student email account.

Student Email: Legal privacy issues prevent your instructor from discussing your work or your grades on commercial e-mail accounts.

Technology Expectations:

- **Minimum Technology Requirement:** Access to Canvas via Collin College, access to your Collin email, access to a word processor to complete and submit papers in a typed format on Canvas, access to the internet to view videos and labs.
- **Minimum Student Skills:** Ability to type, edit, and submit a word document. Understanding of Canvas in terms of locating assignments, posting assignments, posting to the discussion board, and accessing the grade book is vital to success.
- **Requirements for Participation in Online Discussion of Collaborative Activities:** Timely participation in all discussion boards and collaborative assignments—due dates will be announced for each assignment. Please be respectful and treat our online environment as a scholarly environment. Slang and foul language is not acceptable. Critical thinking concerning the topic and expression of such in posted comments is expected. Cite all outside sources used in each posting if needed.
- **Criteria Used to Evaluate Participation in Such Activities:** Evidence or critical thinking as applied to the topic, responses of the minimum word length established for each posting, on time posting, and knowledge of the subject matter.
- **Additional Information about Technology:** Technological issues, to include internet issues, are not an excuse for turning in work late or not turning in work at all.

Supplies: Pens (black or blue), lined loose-leaf notebook paper, and reliable internet access.

Repeat Policy: 6.24 Repeating Courses: Grades of all courses taken will be recorded on the student's transcript. The highest grade earned will be used in computing the grade point average and applied toward degree or program

requirements. Beginning fall 2002, a course in which a grade (including W) has been received can be repeated only one (1) time to replace the grade. The grade received does not affect the student's ability to repeat a course.

Registration holds will be placed on courses that have been attempted twice.

When a course is repeated:

1. Only one (1) course/grade will be counted in a student's GPA.
2. The highest grade will be used in GPA calculations.

Courses repeated before Fall 2008 will have only the last grade and credits (whether higher or lower) earned used in computing the grade point average and applied toward degree or program requirements.

Veterans should consult the Director of Financial Aid/Veterans Affairs before repeating any course. Students planning to transfer to another college or university should check with a Collin College academic planning consultant (advisor) or with receiving institutions for their repeat policies. See the Registration Guide for details on specific courses.

Student Handbook, p. 69

Withdrawal Policy: See the current *Collin Registration Guide* for last day to withdraw.

Collin College Academic, Cell Phone, Classroom Behaviors, Plagiarism Policies: See the current (2017-2018) *Collin Student Handbook*. You will be held to the rules and regulations of this handbook; please be familiar with it.

Specifics of Behavioral Policy for this Course:

Disruptions in class are strictly prohibited per the Collin College Student Handbook. Disruptions include any behavior that is inappropriate and/or disrupts the classroom setting or interferes with the teaching and learning process. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, speaking at inappropriate times, using an electronic device when prohibited by the instructor, generating distracting or disrespectful noises or sounds, and acting or speaking disrespectfully to classmates or instructor. Per the Student Handbook, an instructor may dismiss a student from class if the student engages in any of the behaviors included above; thus, the following consequences will be implemented:

- Student will be dismissed from class for the class period
- Student will be counted absent for the class period, no matter the time of the dismissal
- Student will receive no credit for any completed in class that day whether the activity/assignment was completed prior to or after the dismissal
- Documentation of the behavior will be submitted to the academic dean and/or the dean of students' office
- Calling campus police if the need warrants it

Specifics of Plagiarism Policy (All Verbiage in this Section Taken Directly from *Collin Student Handbook*): 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 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 conduct through electronic or computerized means. Scholastic dishonesty shall involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts:

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

Plagiarism is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation or patchwriting, even when a source is cited. In the preparation of all papers and other written work, students must distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other sources. The term "sources" includes not only published primary and secondary materials, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a source, the source must be indicated by the student.

Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files; using someone else's work for assignments as if it were one's own; submitting or resubmitting an assignment (in whole or in part) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from the professor(s); or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

Collusion is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance or unauthorized collaboration; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

In cases where an incident report has been filed for an alleged violation of scholastic dishonesty, the faculty member is requested to delay posting a grade for the academic work in question until the case is final. Students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty offenses will receive an authorized disciplinary penalty or penalties from the Dean of Student Development Office. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place.

Depending on the severity of the plagiarism offense, the student may receive a course penalty of the following: 1.) An F on that particular assignment AND/OR 2.) An F in the course. The severity of the plagiarism will be determined by the depth of the plagiarism and the breadth of the severity within the document.

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.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to regularly attend class and to be on time and stay in class for the entire class meeting. The following attendance policy will be adhered to:

- You are allowed to miss SIX classes.
- After the SIX classes, then 3 points for every additional day missed will be deducted off of your course average at the end of the session.
- After NINE absences, the student will receive an F as his/her course average.
- Three tardies = 1 absence
- Leaving early three times = 1 absence
- Any combination of tardies and leaving early that equals three = 1 absence
- Nota Bene: 1-10 minutes = tardy, and 11+ minutes = absence

Additional Information about Attendance:

UNDERSTAND THAT AN ABSENCE FROM CLASS DOES NOT ABSOLVE YOU OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BEING PREPARED FOR THE NEXT CLASS SESSION INCLUDING TURNING IN WORK THE DAY SOMETHING IS DUE EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT!

Standards for Instructor Response and Availability: I check my email frequently (3 to 4 times a day) throughout the day; however, I typically do not check it after 4:00 pm on weekdays. Emails should include a salutation (i.e. Dear Professor Young). On weekends, I do not check email. Your grades, in most cases, will be posted within 4-6 days of your submission barring any pressing issues on my end; I will let you know if this is the case.

LATE WORK POLICY: No late work will be accepted for this course. Deadlines are a part of the professional world and of life.

Course Content Warning: It should go without saying, but let me be clear: *All classroom discussions and the content of your papers should uphold the highest respect for individuals.* You can make a good argument without degrading or insulting. You **will** probably find yourself being offended by a reading, an opinion, and/or a point of discussion that comes up in class; offense is not an excuse to avoid rhetorical work—indeed, it is just the occasion for that work to come to bear. The college classroom is a reflection of the “real world”; our literary analysis will engage that real world on any and all fronts including but not limited to politics, religion, social issues, and the like.

MLA Format Expected for All Work

We will discuss MLA format in some detail the first week or so of class. Afterward, I expect you to have a basic knowledge of MLA formatting. Later in the semester, we will spend some time discussing citation. If you forget our initial MLA talk, I strongly suggest you get yourself to the interwebs ([Purdue OWL MLA](#) is a great place), YouTube, and/or the Collin College Writing Center for help. “I did not know” will not fly in this class.

The Basics: One-inch margins, 12 point font (Times New Roman), double-spacing at 0 point (you will usually need to change this since most Word programs default to 8 or 10 point spacing), name and page number in header top right, informational header on first page only top left, in-text citations when appropriate, title on first page, works cited page. Nothing underlined. Nothing in **bold**. No other font sizes. No other fonts but the one suggested above (particularly comic sans). No title pages. No extra spacing after/before paragraphs or sentences.

Document Uploads: All papers turned in on Canvas in this class *must* be in a Word document (.doc, .docx) or a PDF (Adobe Acrobat) file *only*. I cannot open any other files including those from Macs or Google Docs. **If you turn in a document I cannot open, it will not be graded.**

Method of Evaluation

Grade Scale
A= 900 to 1000 points
B= 800 to 890 points
C= 700 to 790 points
D= 600 to 690 points
F= 0 to 590 points

Quizzes (Multiple) – 200 points

Students will be quizzed over individual and/or groups of readings, the authors who penned the works, and/or the historical context of which the writings occurred.

Tests (3) – 400 points

Students will be tested over several weeks’ worth of readings where there will be multiple choice and short essay questions to answer in Canvas or on paper.

Research Essay (1) – 250 points

Students will write one research paper of 5 pages in length over an author of interest studying the major theme and corresponding literary devices that add to the theme of the writing.

Research Presentation (1) – 150 points

You will have a research presentation which will require you to explain your work from the research essay, create a visual, and spark class discussion.

Extra Credit Movie Reviews (20 points each, due by Week 13 in class) (Day that they are due TBD)

There are, of course, several movies which would help to provide more context to the literature we are reading, especially those movie versions of longer works we simply do not have time to read (i.e. *Moby Dick*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Huckleberry Finn*, etc.). Any movie based on an American literary work published before the end of the Civil War (1865) will do—including movies viewed in class. The review should be two pages in length and talk about specific scenes, aspects, etc. In other words, don't just tell me what happened or that you did or did not like it. Make it interesting. You may do up to TWO movie reviews for up to 40 points extra credit.

Important Dates:

Aug. 27 Fall Classes Begin

Sept. 3 Labor Day Holiday (All Campuses Closed)

Oct. 19 Fall Last Day to Withdraw

Nov. 19-23 Thanksgiving Holiday (All Campuses Closed)

DISCLAIMER RESERVING RIGHT TO CHANGE SYLLABUS/COURSE SCHEDULE:

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

Highlight = In Book

Week 1	Introduction	Homework
M – 8/27	Introduction to course -Course syllabus - Lecture over Whitman & Harjo -Whitman, “I Hear America Singing” -Harjo, “When the World as We Knew It Ended”	Purchase your book Irving, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
W – 8/29	American Mythology - Watch: Disney's “The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad” - Lecture: Bradley, “What The Legend of SleepyHollow Tells Us About Contagion, Fear and Epidemics”	Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”
F – 8/31	The Stories We Tell Ourselves Lecture: - The History of Pocahontas - Townsend, “The True Story of Pocahontas” -John Smith	Smith, “Letter to Queen Anne (about Pocahontas)” -John Smith 1580-1631 Informational Section in Book -From The General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles
Week 2	Christopher Columbus, Roger Williams	Homework

M – 9/3	Labor Day Holiday- No Classes	Crash Course US History #1 Christopher Columbus “Letter of Discovery”
W – 9/5	The New World -Lecture: Columbus Background -Discussion of “Letter of Discovery”	Crash Course US History #2 Roger Williams “From Christenings Make Not Christians”
F – 9/7	-Lecture: Roger Williams - Roger Williams’ Poetry	Crash Course US History #3
Week 3	Anne Bradstreet	Homework
M – 9/10	Who were they? - Winthrop, A Model of Christian Charity - More About Puritans	- Bradstreet, (all informational front matter) -Find two or three poems you’d like to discuss on Wednesday in class. -From Charlotte Gordon’s, Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Life of America’s First Poet
W – 9/12	Anne Bradstreet - Background Puritan Women - Comparing Bradstreet and Hutchinson	Study for Test #1
F – 9/14	Test #1	
Week 4	Pocahontas Revisited	Homework
M – 9/17	Watch: Disney’s <i>Pocahontas</i>	Apess, “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man”
W – 9/19		
F – 9/21	Our View of History -Discuss Apess & <i>Pocahontas</i> -Diaz, “Hand-Me-Down Halloween” -Alexie, “How to Write the Great American Indian Novel”	

Week 5	Benjamin Franklin	Homework
M – 9/24	Lecture: The Founding Father, “Fatsides” - Autobiography, Part One	Explore all of this web resource: PBS “Wit and Wisdom” of Benjamin Franklin Study for Test #2
W – 9/26	Lecture: The Allegorical Franklin - Autobiography, Part One (cont.)	
F – 9/28	Lecture: Franklin and Self-Help - Autobiography, Part Two	
Week 6	Founding Fathers	Homework

M – 10/1	Test #2	
W – 10/3	Our Obsession with the Founders -Alexander Hamilton: From Hamilton’s Itinerarium	Parson Weems, “The Life of Washington”
F – 10/5	What do we make of the Founding Fathers? - Washington, “Farewell Address” - Parson Weems’ legend	Wheatley, <i>All</i>
Week 7	Phillis Wheatley & Solomon Northup	Homework
M – 10/8	Wheatley’s Fans and Critics - Background - Prompt for Research Paper	Start work on Research Paper
W – 10/10	Watch: <i>12 Years a Slave</i>	
F – 10/12	This movie does have moments of graphic violence.	
Week 8	Nathaniel Hawthorne	Homework
M – 10/15	Lecture: Hawthorne’s View of the Past - “Mrs. Hutchinson” - “Young Goodman Brown”	<i>Hawthorne</i>
W – 10/17	More Hawthorne - “The May-Pole of Merry Mount” - “The Minister’s Black Veil”	<i>Hawthorne</i>
F – 10/19	Even more Hawthorne - “The Birth-Mark”	
Week 9	Edgar Allan Poe	Homework
M – 10/22	Lecture: The Tragic Genius of Poe - “The Fall of the House of Usher”	Poe, “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” “The Tell-Tale Heart”
W – 10/24	More Poe - “The Masque of the Red Death” - “The Black Cat”	Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado”
F – 10/26	Even more Poe - Selected poems and “The Raven”	Research Paper due to Canvas before class on Friday.
Week 10	Herman Melville	Homework
M – 10/29	Watch: <i>In the Heart of the Sea</i>	<i>Melville</i> , “Bartleby, the Scrivener”
W – 11/31		
F – 11/2		
Week 11	<i>Ruth Hall</i>	Homework
M – 11/5	The Modern Woman: (Author) Fanny Fern - Ruth Hall, 1-31	

W – 11/7	More Fanny Fern Work on Presentations in Class	
F – 11/9	Work on Presentations in Class	Read Dickinson before discussing in class
Week 12	<i>Emily Dickinson</i>	Homework
M – 11/12	Literary Celebrities and Recluses - Emily Dickinson - Emily Dickinson Poems #1	Read Dickinson before discussing in class
W – 11/14	- Emily Dickinson Poems #2 - Emily Dickinson Poems #3	Read Dickinson before discussing in class
F – 11/16	- Emily Dickinson Poems #4 - Emily Dickinson Poems #5	Study for Test #3
Week 13	<i>Ruth Hall</i>	Homework
M – 11/19	Test #3	Research Presentations after Thanksgiving Holiday
W – 11/21	Thanksgiving Holiday	
F – 11/23		
Week 14	Alcott & Whitman	Homework
M – 11/26	Watch: <i>Little Women</i>	Selections from <i>Walt Whitman: The Complete Poems</i>
W – 11/28		
F – 11/30	Lecture: Whitman and Emerson - Transcendentalism - Emerson, “Nature”	
Week 15	Presentations	Homework
M – 12/3	Presentations all Week	
W – 12/5		
F – 12/7		
Week 16	<i>Final Exam</i>	
	Complete Presentations as Needed	