



Course Syllabus

English 2660: American Literature

Division of Arts and Sciences

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Class Days: Class Time:
Location: Classroom: Laboratory:
Credit Hours: 3 Contact Hours: 3 Lab Hours: N/A Lecture Hours: 3

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Instructor: Office Location:
Phone: Email Address:
Office Hours:
Division Office/Location: A202 Division Fax: 419/355-1248
Full-time Contact Person: Steve Mohr Phone(s): 419/334-8400 x143

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Course Description:

American Literature is a survey course that examines the development of American Literature from the early colonies to the present. Through the use of selected texts, students will become familiar with key authors and works that represent American literature and the multiple voices within it.

As a survey course, American Literature is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the historical and cultural conditions that influenced the development and formation of American literature. This course will provide the necessary background for a more in-depth understanding of and appreciation for American literature not covered in the course, and will prepare students for more advanced study of literature in general.

The readings for the course, as identified in this syllabus, are subject to change from one semester to the next. They are not meant to be an indication that they are the most important readings in American literature; rather, they are meant to provide students with the intent of any survey course in literature: to provide students with representative samples of important texts from the time periods delineated in the syllabus.

Note: Native American literature and the literature of discovery are not included in this course. Because Native American literature lies outside of the Euro-American literary tradition, the English Department includes samples of it in English 2630, Non-western Literature. Additionally, the constraints of a single semester survey made including Native American literature and the literature of discovery very difficult.

Prerequisite(s):
"C" or better in English 1850, Introduction to Literature

Co-requisite(s):
English 1060, College Composition II
Entry Level Skills and Knowledge:
See "Prerequisites"



- *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*
- *New English Canaan* (excerpts from books One and Three)
- *A Modell of Christian Charity*
- *The Wonders of the Invisible World, V.*

Week 2: Seventeenth Century, second half

- *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*
- **Quiz #1**

Week 3: Eighteenth Century, first half

- *The Journal of Madam Knight* (excerpts)
- *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*
- *Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America*

Week 4: Eighteenth Century, first half continued

- *Letters from an American Farmer, Letter III*
- *Common Sense*
- *Notes on the State of Virginia* (excerpts from Queries VI, XI, XVII, and XVIII)

Week 5: Eighteenth Century, second half

- *Declaration of Independence*
- *The Federalist No. 6*
- *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, (excerpts from Chapters 1, 3, &10)
- *On the Equality of Sexes*
- *On Being Brought from Africa to America*
- **Response Paper #1**

Week 6: Nineteenth Century, first half

- *Speech of Chief Seattle*
- *The American Scholar*
- *Self-Reliance*

Week 7: Nineteenth Century, first half continued

- *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
- *Resistance to Civil Government*
- *Walden*, (excerpts “Where I Lived and What I Lived For,” “Higher Laws,” and “Conclusion”)
- Response Paper #1

Week 8: Nineteenth Century, first half continued

- *The Birth-mark*
- *Benito Cereno*
- *The Purloined Letter*
- **Mid term Exam**

Week 9: Nineteenth Century, first half continued

- *The Condition of Women in the United States*
- *Appeal to the Christian Women of the South*
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Chapters V-XI)

Week 10: Nineteenth Century, second half

- *Gettysburg Address*
- *Second Inaugural Address*
- *In Paths Untrodden*

- *Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking*
- *To A Locomotive in Winter*
- *Much Madness*
- *I Heard a Fly Buzz*
- *The Brain*
- *Because I Could not Stop*
- **Quiz #2**

Week 11: Nineteenth Century, second half continued

- *The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg*
- *We Wear the Mask*
- *The Real Question*

Week 12: Nineteenth Century, second half continued

- *The Jolly Corner*
- *The Story of an Hour*
- *The Yellow Wall-Paper*
- *A White Heron*

Week 13: Twentieth Century, first half

- *A Wagner Matinee*
- *The Road Not Taken*
- *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*
- *Babylon Revisited*
- **Response Paper #2**

Week 14: Twentieth Century, first half continued

- *Barn Burning*
- *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*
- *The Weary Blues*
- *Sweat*
- *The Grapes of Wrath*, Chapters One and Five

Week 15: Twentieth Century, second half

- *Why I Live at the P.O.*
- *I Have a Dream*
- *Her Kind*
- *Housewife*
- *Night Sea Journey*

Week 16:

- **Final Exam**

### **Course Requirements:**

- Attend class with ruthless regularity
- Read all of the assigned material
- Participate actively in class discussions

- Complete all assignments on time
- Be professional: positive attitude, regular attendance, participation in class, timely submission of work, communication of special circumstances or needs
- No cell phone calls

## **Policies**

**Course Withdrawing:** If for any reason you need to withdraw from this course, be certain that you do so according to College procedure. It is your responsibility to know and follow this procedure. If you simply stop coming to class, without officially withdrawing from the course, your grade is an automatic “F.” Please follow official College procedure for withdrawing from this or any course.

*College Academic Policies are located in the College Catalog. A copy of the current catalog may be picked up in any of the division offices or admissions. The list of college policies is also available online at <https://www.terra.edu/register/Collegecat/policies.asp>.*

**Support Services:** The College offers a number of support services to assist in your success in this course and all courses. Among these services are the Writing & Math Center in B105, the computer labs, the computers in the atriums, and the Office of Learning Support Services, which coordinates the campus disability services and tutoring programs,.

Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the documentation of a disability should contact the Office of Learning Support Services privately to discuss his/her specific issues. Please contact the OLSS at (419) 334-8400 X 208 or visit 100 Roy Klay Hall (Building A) to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

***If you have a documented disability and are receiving academic accommodations through the Office of Learning Support Services, please schedule a meeting with your instructor in a timely manner so that we may discuss how these services will be arranged.***

Tutoring services are available to students beginning the second week of every quarter. Students requesting tutoring services should obtain a tutor request form from the OLSS in 100 Roy Klay Hall (Building A) or online at the Terra website. Please note that instructor verification and acceptance of the Student Learner Agreement is necessary for all tutoring requests. All requests should be submitted to 100 Roy Klay Hall (Building A).