**Literature of Early America**

This course will explore the writings that come out of the first two centuries of the English settlement of North America, from the colonial to the early national period. We will examine a variety of documents and genres: the literature of exploration and early cross-cultural contact; Puritan histories, sermons, poetry, and a trial; captivity narratives; Native American writings; Enlightenment publications—autobiographies, speeches, slave narratives, letters, polemical writings; early republican fiction. These texts will allow us to focus on a series of crucial issues: conjunctions of religion, cultural expression, and violence; textual/political relationships between the imperial metropolis and the colonial frontier; ideological and literary transformations in the contact zone of colonial conquest; New World racializations; colonial, Puritan, and republican gender constructions; and the social/textual construction of nationhood. Research will be an important component of the course; the three main, graded assignments will all require research into current scholarly sources (databases, critical studies, histories). The course fulfills a pre-1800 literature requirement for English majors.

**Required Texts**

Myra Jehlen and Michael Warner, eds., *The English Literatures of America, 1500-1800* (Routledge)
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (Penguin)
Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* (Oxford)

Books are available at the Durham Book Exchange and at the MUB. Readings in Jehlen and Warner's anthology, *The English Literatures of America*, are designated on the syllabus by ELA. In addition, we will read a series of critical essays and a few more primary readings which I will hand out in class; these are marked [H] on the syllabus. Please bring the day’s reading to class. An important note about the pace of the reading: the amount of reading per week will vary considerably—plan ahead so that you anticipate heavy and light weeks. I have put some critical and historical sources on reserve at Dimond Library; I will ask you to make use of these readings in your group presentation and the accompanying paper and—either these or other appropriate research sources—in your 5-page paper and term paper. Finally, I recommend the editors' introductions to the books by Paine, Rowson, and Brown for historical contexts and approaches to interpretation.

**Course requirements and policies**

**Requirements** include dedicated attendance, participation, occasional in-class writing, five 1-2 page papers due in starred weeks (on the day we discuss the reading), one 5-page paper, an oral presentation (in groups) and a related 3-4 page paper, a 10-page term paper, and a brief report on your term paper topic. **Grading** will proceed as follows: term paper 30%, 1-2 page papers 20%, 5-page paper 20%, presentation and related paper 20 %, participation (including in-class writing) 10%. 1-2 page papers will be marked 1, 2, or 3: below, at, or above expectation for the course; I will suggest topics the day before each possible due date. You may develop a 1-2 page paper into an aspect of a longer paper. I will post assignments on Blackboard detailing the three graded projects: the 5-page paper, the presentation and 3-4 page paper, and the term paper. The only opportunity to rewrite papers will be before they are due; good papers are the result of rethinking and revision, and I am happy to comment on drafts ahead of the due date. There will also be occasional discussions in small groups.

**Extra credit** opportunity: starting with the featured speaker for UNH’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, there will be a number of speakers and events on campus this term whose talks have either direct or indirect
bearing on the study of early American literature. Anyone attending three of these talks or events and writing a 1-2 page response paper for each that scores a 2 or 3 (1s and 0s won’t count) will receive a final grade marked up 1/3 (e.g., from a C to a C+). I will post a list of speakers and events on the course Blackboard site.

***An important note on attendance: The exchange of ideas in class is a crucial part of this course. Therefore, the final grade of anyone missing more than 4 days will be marked down 1/3 for each subsequent class missed, with no exceptions for illness or emergencies; please save your 4 free days for those occasions (e.g., someone whose work averages a C at the end of the term but who missed 5 classes will receive a C-, and if they miss 6 classes will receive a D+, etc.). This grading policy is not meant to be punitive but to reflect work actually completed; attendance is part of the work of the course.***

English 741 is a good choice for honors work. If you are an Honors-in-Major English student and would like to take this as an honors course, please talk to me during the first week of class.

If you have a documented disability, please register with the office of Disability Services for Students and then talk to me about appropriate accommodations in this course.

Academic honesty is a core value at UNH, in literary research, and in this class. Although I encourage you to develop your ideas in conversation with others, your written work must attribute ideas and language fully to your printed and online sources. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. I do not accept plagiarized work. The College of Liberal Arts has a definition of plagiarism and a useful online tutorial about what does and does not constitute plagiarism at: http://www.unh.edu/liberal-arts/plagiarism/plagiarismHome.cfm.

I will be glad to meet with you individually to discuss readings or papers. Feel free to drop by my office during office hours or to make an appointment; I enjoy talking to students.

Course Schedule

**Early Contacts and “Virginia”**

1st week

| Tues, Jan 22 | Introductions. |
| Thurs, Jan 24 | Read "General Introduction," "The Expansion of Europe," accounts by Mandeville, Columbus, and Vespucci, and the Nahuatl account of conquest (ELA pages xvii-6, 8-9, 11-28, 30-35). Assignment on group presentations given out. |

2nd week*

| Tues, Jan 29 | First English (mostly) Accounts. "Learning to Say 'America' in English," early printed references to America (ELA, 39-44), views on plantation, accounts by Hakluyt, Hariot, Ralegh, and others (ELA 58-94). Sign up for group presentations. |

3rd week* (due Feb 7)

| Tues, Feb 5 | Meet in the Stark Room, in Special Collections on the first floor of Dimond Library. Session with Bill Ross, Special Collections Librarian, on researching early American literature with digital data bases. This is a mandatory meeting; you will draw on this information in at least one of your graded projects. |
Puritans in Massachusetts: City on a Hill


4th week
    Dissent and "Toleration": Winthrop, Saltonstall, Cotton (ELA 449-51, 457-60).
Thurs, Feb 14  GROUP I: Mock Trial of Anne Hutchinson.
    Trial transcript—the fuller version [Handout for Group I].

5th week*
Tues, Feb 19  Puritan women / Puritan poetry.
    Bradstreet (ELA 322-25, 548-63).

Contact Narratives
Thurs, Feb 21  Captivity Narratives: one Puritan and one French Canadian.
    Radisson, Rowlandson (ELA 325-82).

6th week
Tues, Feb 26  17th and 18th-Century Native American oral histories, prophecies, and oratory.
    Mahican narrative, speeches by Powhatan, “Logan,” Tecumseh [H]; Nauset tale and Puritan tales of Indian conversion (ELA 193-94, 316-18); Pratt, from “Arts of the Contact Zone” [H].

Puritan Piety and Eighteenth-Century Revival
Thurs, Feb 28  Conversion and Communion: Meditative poetry.
    Taylor, Tompson (ELA 581-91, 1032-34).
    Due: 5-page paper.

7th week
Tues, Mar 5  Edwards and the Great Awakening.
    In-class writing.
Thurs, Mar 7  Colonial Identities: Portraits (slides in class)
    Term paper assignment handed out.

Spring Break

Enlightenment and Print Culture in the Eighteenth Century

8th week
Tues, Mar 19  Franklin and the Secular Autobiography.
    "Histories," Franklin (ELA 683-85, 725-70).
    Small discussion groups in class.
Thurs, Mar 21  GROUP II: Presentation on Printers’ Shops, Newspapers, and Print Culture.
    Anderson, from Imagined Communities [H].

Revolution and National Identity

9th week*
Tues, Mar 26  Revolution: Paine, Common Sense.
Thurs, Mar 28  Contexts: "The Literature of Politics," Livingston, broadsides, Adams, Jefferson, Crèvecoeur, Freneau (ELA 813-16, 830-36, 842-45, 852-54, 858-62, 973-76, 1104-06); Habermas, from The Public Sphere [H].
10th week
Tues, Apr 2  Race and the Discourses of Piety and Citizenship in the American Enlightenment.
   Whites Debating Slavery: Sewall, Saffin (ELA 817-25).
Thurs, Apr 4  GROUP III: Presentation on Legal and Ideological Definitions of Race and Slavery and on Slave Narratives.
   Harris, from “Whiteness as Property” [H].
   Due: Prospectus for term paper (Group III may hand it in on Apr 9).

11th week*
Tues, Apr 9  African American and Native American Voices: Wheatley and Occom (ELA 1076-81, 643-59).

   Fictions of the Early Republic
Thurs, Apr 11 Gender and Genre: The Sentimental Novel.
   Rowson, Charlotte Temple. Also: Murray (ELA 874-79).
   Davidson, from Revolution and the Word [H].

12th week
Tues, Apr 16  Finish discussion of Rowson.
   The Gothic Novel and Republican Anxieties.
   Brown, Wieland (first half).
   In-class writing on second half of novel.

13th week
Tues, Apr 23 Brown, Wieland. Small group discussion.
Thurs, Apr 25  Due: Term paper.
   In class I will group you, by topic, into panels; panels will discuss their upcoming presentations.

14th week
Tues, Apr 30  Panels: 5-minute reports on term paper topics.
Thurs, May 2  Last day of class. Continue reports. Course evaluations.
   Term papers returned.

Suggested Bibliographies for Group Presentations, on Reserve in Dimond Library:
These books are on two-hour reserve until April 9, when they will go on three-day reserve.

   Group I: Mock Trial of Anne Hutchinson.
Francis J. Bremer, ed., Anne Hutchinson, Troubler of the Puritan Zion (scholars’ essays)
Patricia Caldwell, The Puritan Conversion Narrative
David Hall, ed., The Antinomian Controversy (primary documents, including trial transcript)
Alan Heimert and Andrew Delbanco, eds., The Puritans in America: A Narrative Anthology
Eve LaPlante, American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman who Defied the Puritans
Edmund Morgan, Visible Saints: The History of a Puritan Idea
Amy Schrager Lang, Prophetic Woman: Anne Hutchinson and the Problem of Dissent in the Literature of New England
Michael Winship, Making Heretics: Militant Protestantism and Free Grace in Massachusetts, 1636-1641

   Group II: Printers’ Shops, Newspapers, and Print Culture.
America’s Historical Newspapers: online images of colonial newspapers, such as Franklin’s. Type
“America's Historical Newspapers “in the search box on the library’s home page for direct access.
Charles Clark, The Public Prints: The Newspaper in Anglo-American Culture, 1665-1740
David Copeland, Colonial American Newspapers: Character and Content
Carol Sue Humphrey, The Press of the Young Republic, 1783-1833
Jeffrey L. Pasley, "The Tyranny of Printers": Newspaper Politics in the Early American Republic
Jeffery A. Smith, Franklin and Bache: Envisioning the Enlightened Republic
Michael Warner, The Letters of the Republic: Publication and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth-Century America


**Group III: Presentation on Legal and Ideological Definitions of Race and Slavery and on Slave Narratives.**

George Boulukos, The Grateful Slave: The Emergence of Race in Eighteenth-Century British and American Culture
Dickson D. Bruce, Jr., The Origins of African American Literature, 1680-1865
Audrey Fisch, ed., The Cambridge Companion to the African American Slave Narrative
Winthrop Jordan, White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812
Sidney Kaplan and Emma Nogrady Kaplan, The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution
Peter Kolchin, American Slavery, 1619-1877
Thomas D. Morris, Southern Slavery and the Law, 1619-1860
Larry E. Tise, Proslavery: A History of the Defense of Slavery in America, 1701-1840
Rafia Zafar, We Wear the Mask: African Americans Write American Literature, 1760-1870

The Library of Congress’s collection of documents on Slavery and the Law, 1740-1860, at http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html (you will wish to focus on the pre-1810 material)

**Recommended Books for Research in Dimond Library:**
The following is a general bibliography for the course, in addition to the above books. These books are not on reserve.
I’ve left out many books that focus on a specific writer. The list is not exhaustive and does not include journal articles. Please give yourself enough time in your research process to recall books that are checked out (takes up to 10 days). For articles, follow the same path noted immediately below for accessing the Evans collection, but instead of the last step, click on MLA International Bibliography. Major journals in American literary studies have online access (via Dimond Library’s home page) to their articles: Early American Literature, American Literature, American Literary History, American Quarterly, and others.

**Collections of writings from the period:**

Evans Digital Collection is an amazing on-line resource for primary documents. On Dimond Library’s homepage, under Research Tools, click on Databases, then Literature, and Early American Imprints.
For an online exhibit of early European texts and images of the Americas, see the University of Pennsylvania Library’s site, http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/rbm/kislak/index/cultural.html
Keith Fennimore, ed., Short Stories from Another Day: 18th-Century Periodical Fiction
Carla Mulford, ed., Early American Writings
Richard Slotkin and James K. Folsom, eds., So Dreadful a Judgment: Puritan Responses to King Philip’s War 1676-1677
Alden Vaughan and Edward Clark, eds., Puritans Among the Indians: Accounts of Captivity and Redemption, 1676-1724
Louis B. Wright, ed., The Elizabethans' America

**Literary Criticism and Historical and Cultural Scholarship:**
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism
Barnes, Elizabeth, States of Sympathy: Seduction and Democracy in the American Novel
Sacvan Bercovitch, Typology and Early American Literature
Sacvan Bercovitch, ed., The American Puritan Imagination
Joanna Brooks, American Lazarus: Religion and the Rise of African-American and Native American Literatures
Kristina Bross, Dry Bones and Indian Sermons: Praying Indians in Colonial America
Bruce Burgett, Sentimental Bodies: Sex, Gender, and Citizenship in the Early Republic
Michelle Burnham, Captivity and Sentiment: Cultural Exchange in American Literature, 1682-1861
Christopher Castiglia, Bound and Determined: Captivity, Culture-Crossing, and White Womanhood from Mary Rowlandson to Patty Hearst
Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood: "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835
Caleb Crain, American Sympathy: Men, Friendship, and the Literature in the New Nation
Wayne Craven, Colonial American Portraiture: The Economic, Religious, Social, Cultural, Philosophical, Scientific, and Aesthetic Foundations
Kimberlé Crenshaw et al., ed., Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement
Cathy Davidson, Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America
Cathy Davidson, ed., Reading in America: Literature and Social History
Jim Egan, Authorizing Experience: Refigurations of the Body Politic in Seventeenth-Century New England Writing
Everett Emerson, ed., American Literature, 1764-1789: The Revolutionary Years
Robert Ferguson, Law and Letters in American Culture
Jay Fliegelman, Prodigals and Pilgrims: The American Revolution Against Patriarchal Authority, 1750-1800
Department of History, National University of Singapore, Declaring Independence: Jefferson, Natural Language and the Culture of Performance
Frances Smith Foster, Written by Herself: Literary Production by African American Women, 1746-1892
Paul Giles, Transatlantic Insurrections: British Culture and the Formation of American Literature, 1730-1860
Stephen Greenblatt, Marvelous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World
Sharon M. Harris, Executing Race: Early American Women's Narratives of Race, Society, and the Law
Helen Jaskoski, ed., Early Native American Writing: New Critical Essays
Francis Jennings, The Invasion of America: Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest
Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America
Janice Knight, Orthodoxies in Massachusetts: Rereading American Puritanism
Robert Lawson-Peebles, Landscape and Written Expression in Revolutionary America
David Leverenz, The Language of Puritan Feeling: An Exploration in Literature, Psychology, and Social History
Joan Pong Linton, The Romance of the New World: Gender and the Literary Formations of English Colonialism
Christopher Looby, Voicing America: Language, Literary Form, and the Origins of the United States
Andrew Lopenzina, Red Ink: Native Americans Picking up the Pen in the Colonial Period
Margaretta M. Lovell, Art in a Season of Revolution: Painters, Artisans, and Patrons in Early America
Ellen Gross Miles, ed., The Portrait in Eighteenth-Century America
Amy M.E. Morris, Popular Measures: Poetry and Church Order in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts
Barbara Oberg and Harry Stout, eds., Benjamin Franklin, Jonathan Edwards and the Representation of American Culture
Bernd C. Peyer, The Tutor'd Mind: Indian Missionary-Writers in Antebellum America
Hugh Rankin, The Theater in Colonial America
Jeffrey H. Richards, Drama, Theatre, and Identity in the American New Republic
Shirley Samuels, Romances of the Republic: Women, the Family, and Violence in the Literature of the Early American Nation
William J. Scheick, Authority and Female Authorship in Colonial America
Malini Johar Schueller and Edwards Watts, eds., Messy Beginnings: Postcoloniality and Early American Studies
Jason Shaffer, Performing Patriotism: National Identity in the Colonial and Revolutionary American Theater
David S. Shields, The Oracles of Empire: Poetry, Politics, and Commerce in British America, 1690-1750
Jeanine H. Slocum, Civil Tongues & Polite Letters in British America
Frank Shuffelton, ed., A Mixed Race: Ethnicity in Early America
Richard Slotkin, Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600-1860
Pauline Turner Strong, Captive Selves, Captivating Others: The Politics and Poetics of Colonial American Captivity Narratives
Timothy Sweet, American Georgics: Economy and Environment in Early American Literature
Robert S. Tilton, Pocahontas: The Evolution of an American Narrative
David Watters, "With Bodilie Eyes": Eschatological Themes in Puritan Literature and Gravestone Art
Jace Weaver, That the People Might Live: Native American Literatures and Native American Community
Larzer Ziff, Writing in the New Nation: Prose, Print, and Politics in the Early United States