

English 123: American Literature I
TR 09:20 am-10:35 am DR 002

Instructor: Edward Whitley

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first part of this course surveys texts written in the Americas from 1492 to about 1800, including the literatures of discovery, settlement, and contact between Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans. The second part of this course explores how these early American texts laid the groundwork for the literary renaissance of the mid-nineteenth century when authors such as Emerson, Hawthorne, Whitman, and Dickinson wrote some of the most influential works of U.S. literature.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Charles Brockden Brown, *Weiland* (Invisible College Press 978-1931468022)

William Craft and Ellen Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom* (University of Georgia Press 978-0820321042)

Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, *Nature and Walking* (Beacon Press 0807014192)

Hannah W. Foster, *The Coquette* (Oxford 978-0195042399)
Pearson Custom Anthology of American Literature

ASSIGNMENTS

- A. *Midterm and Final*: Midterm (20%), Final (20%).
- B. *Papers*: Two 4–5 page double-spaced papers (20% each).
- C. *Homework and Quizzes*: Occasional in-class and take-home assignments; announced and unannounced quizzes on daily readings (15%).
- D. *Participation*: Active participation in class discussions and/or contribution to online discussion board at www.bb.lehigh.edu (5%).

POLICIES

- A. *Academic Integrity*: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.
- B. *Special Needs*: If you have a learning disability that requires accommodation or if you are involved in any activity (such as athletics) that will require you to miss class, please let me know as soon as possible.
- C. *Courtesy*: If for any reason you feel offended, ignored, or otherwise mistreated in class, please talk either to me or to the English Department (located on the first floor of Drown Hall) as soon as possible. Please show courtesy to classmates by avoiding potentially offensive language, turning off cell phones, and participating in class.
- D. *Late Assignments*: Assignments will be penalized ten percent for every class period they are late. If assignments are not turned in at the beginning of class they cannot be turned in until the next class period. I will not accept assignments as email attachments or in my mailbox on campus. Technological failure is no excuse for a late assignment.

- E. *Absences*: While attendance is not required, if you are absent from a class you are responsible for contacting a classmate to find out about the material you missed. If you miss a quiz or an in-class assignment because of an absence you will only be allowed to make it up if you have an approved excuse.
- F. *Email and Office Hours*: You are welcome to email me with questions and concerns, but only expect a response to your message after 24 hours. If your question requires a lengthy response, please come to office hours to discuss it rather than expecting a long email from me.
- G. *Late Additions*: Students registering for class late will be required to keep up with reading assignments and will be held to the same deadlines as students who were in class from the beginning. Students registering late are responsible for contacting classmates to find out the material they missed.
- H. *Grade Complaints*: If you wish to take issue with the grade you receive on any class assignment you must first wait 24 hours before contacting me with your complaint. When you do so, you must return the graded assignment with a typed cover memo explaining why you think you deserve a different grade (this may *not* be done over email).
- I. *Rewrite Policy*: You may only rewrite your papers and resubmit them for a higher grade if you receive a C or lower the first time the paper is submitted. Resubmitted papers can earn no higher than a B and must be completed within two weeks from the time that the paper was returned.

COURSE CALENDAR

T 8/26	Course Introduction
R 8/28	Columbus, Report to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (CP), Four Voyages (BB) (Meet in Linderman 302)
T 9/2	Smith, from <i>General History of Virginia</i> (BB) Smith, “Letter to Queen Anne” (BB) La Vega, from <i>The Florida of the Inca</i> (CP) Occom, <i>A Short Narrative of My Life</i> (CP) (Meet in Linderman 302)
R 9/4	Hariot, <i>Brief and True Report</i> (CP) Bartram, from <i>Travels</i> (CP) (Meet in Linderman 302)
T 9/9	Bradstreet, “Contemplations,” “The Flesh and the Spirit,” “Author to Her Book” (CP) Taylor, Preface from <i>God’s Determinations</i> , Prologue to <i>Preparatory Meditations</i> , “Meditation, Col 2.17,” “Meditation 42,” “Soul’s Groan to Christ for Succour” (CP) Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (CP), “The Beauty of the World” and “Images or Shadows of Divine Things” (BB)
R 9/11	Rowlandson <i>Narrative</i> (CP) B. Hammon, <i>Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings</i> (BB)
T 9/16	Equiano, <i>The Life of Gustavus Vassa</i> (CP) Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “Liberty and Peace,” “Letter to Samson Occom” (CP) J. Hammon, “An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatley,” “An Address to the Negroes of the State of New York” (CP)
R 9/18	Crevecoeur, from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> (CP) Franklin, from <i>Autobiography</i> (BB)
T 9/23	Brockden Brown, <i>Weiland</i>
R 9/25	Brockden Brown, <i>Weiland</i>
T 9/30	Foster, <i>The Coquette</i>
R 10/2	Foster, <i>The Coquette</i>
T 10/7	EXAM #1
R 10/9	Paper Workshop
T 10/14	Pacing Break—No Class
R 10/16	PAPER DUE (Meet in Linderman 302)
T 10/21	Emerson, “Nature” from <i>Nature and Walking</i> (3–68)
R 10/23	Thoreau, “Walking” from <i>Nature and Walking</i> (69–144) Whitman, “Facing West from California’s Shores” (BB) O’Sullivan, “The Great Nation of Futurity” (BB)
T 10/28	Whitman, “Song of Myself” (CP)
R 10/30	Dickinson, selected poems (CP)
T 11/4	Hawthorne, Preface to <i>Twice-Told Tales</i> , “Earth’s Holocaust,” “Young Goodman Brown,” “The May-Pole of Merry Mount” (CP)
R 11/6	Poe, “The Imp of the Perverse,” “The Black Cat,” “William Wilson” (CP) and “The Man that Was Used Up” (BB)
T 11/11	Melville, “Bartleby,” “The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids” (CP)

R 11/13	Douglass, “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” (CP) Jacobs, from <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (CP)
T 11/18	Craft and Craft, <i>Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom</i> (1–69)
R 11/20	Apess, “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man” (CP) Ridge, “The Stolen White Girl,” “A Cherokee Love Song,” “Oppression of the Digger Indians” (CP) and “Far in a Lonely Wood” (BB) Longfellow, from <i>Hiawatha</i> (BB)
T 11/25	Davis, “Life in the Iron Mills” (CP)
R 11/27	Thanksgiving—No Class
T 12/2	EXAM #2
R 12/4	Paper Workshop; Course Evaluations
12/11	PAPER DUE