

# English 142: Early American Literature

Professor Michael Ziser  
209 Voorhies Hall

Winter 2013, CRN: 52747  
118 Olson Hall TuTh 12:10-1:30pm

This course will focus on prose narratives—mostly fictional—written in the late colonial and early national periods of American history (approximately 1760 to 1812), ranging from tales of captivity to seduction stories, picaresques, historical romances, and gothic novels. Their authors' preoccupations—revolution, sexual politics, colonial encounter, and racial ordering—will be ours as well for the quarter, with lecture material and limited optional background reading on the historical circumstances most relevant to each book.

## Required Texts:

Susanna Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel; or, a Tale of Old Times*, ed. Joseph Bartolomeo (1798; NY: Broadview, 2009) ISBN 1551118394  
Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* (1791; NY: Norton, 2010) ISBN 0393925382  
Hugh Henry Brackenridge, *Modern Chivalry*, ed. Ed White (1792-1815; Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009) ISBN 0872209911  
Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland; or, The Transformation* (1798; NY: Penguin 1991) ISBN 978014039079  
William Hill Brown and Hannah Webster Foster, *The Power of Sympathy* and *The Coquette* (1789/1797; NY: Penguin, 1996) ISBN 0140434682  
Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789; NY: Dover, 1999) ISBN 048640661X  
Leonora Sansay, *The Secret History; or, the Horrors of San Domingo* (1809; NY: Broadview, 2007) ISBN 1551113465  
Royall Tyler, *The Algerine Captive; or, The Life and Adventures of Doctor Updike Underhill* (1798; NY: Modern Library, 2002) ISBN: 0375760342.  
Unca Eliza Winkfield (pseud.), *The Female American; or, The Adventures of Unca Eliza Winkfield* (1767; NY: Broadview, 2000) ISBN 1551112485

## Requirements:

**Short assignments.** Most weeks there will be a short assignment sent out with the weekly reading guide, usually due the following Friday. You are responsible for completing **ANY THREE** of these. Your work on these assignments will be graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. In the case of a "U" grade, you can either do the assignment over or simply replace it with a later assignment.

**Paper 1** (5-6pp), on a topic assigned by the professor. **Due Sunday 10 February online.** Details online.

**Paper 2** (7-8 pp), on a topic of your choosing. **Due Monday 19 March at final. Supply a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your paper mailed back to you with comments.** Details online.

**Final examination** (1-3pm Tuesday 19 March) consisting of short answer questions and passage identifications. To prepare for the final exam during the quarter, be sure to read all of the assigned novels, taking special note of the major characters and plot points in each. Note down the most important or interesting scenes—as discussed in lecture and as discovered independently—for rereading ahead of the exam. Think about the significance of each scene, character, or plot twist in reference both to the rest of the text in which it is found and to other texts on the list. Reviewing the reading guides and lecture notes can help remind you of many of the salient points, but don't be afraid to put your own ideas forward, provided you can defend them with evidence and logic.

## Grading:

Short Assignments (3 x 5%)	15%	Due at various points throughout the quarter
Paper 1 (5pp)	25%	<b>Due Sunday 10 February</b> (via SmartSite)
Paper 2 (8pp)	35%	<b>Due Tuesday 19 March</b> (at exam)
Final Exam	25%	<b>Tuesday 21 March 1:30-3:30pm, 118 Olson</b>

**Plagiarism:** I have a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism and other forms of cheating. If you are in a time crunch and are tempted to pass off someone else's work as your own out of desperation, don't! It is much better to come talk to me ahead of time to arrange a compromise on the due date. You will incur a small penalty but avoid an F and a referral to Student Judicial Affairs (the minimum penalty for cheating).

**Lateness:** a standard 1/3 of a grade penalty (i.e. from A- to B+) for each 24-hour period after the listed due date applies. Exceptions are granted only for serious reasons, and then only when arranged with me at least 12 hours ahead of the due date (late-breaking documented medical emergencies excepted).

**NOTE:** This syllabus and all other course handouts will be posted on ENL142's SmartSite. Important reading links, images, etexts, writing guides, class policies, and FAQs will also be posted there. Make it a habit to check the site on a regular basis.

ENL 142

Professor Ziser

Winter 2013

**Reading Schedule**

(S) = pdf available on SmartSite

Tu 1/8 Intro. Start *The Adventures of Jonathan Corncob* (1787) (S)  
Th 1/10 *Adventures of Jonathan Corncob* (1787) and Tyler, *The Contrast* (S)

Tu 1/15 Brown, *Power of Sympathy* (1789)  
Th 1/17 Foster, *The Coquette* (1797)

Tu 1/22 Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* (1791)  
Th 1/24 Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*

Tu 1/29 Brockden Brown, *Wieland* (1798)  
Th 1/31 Brockden Brown, *Wieland*

Tu 2/5 Sansay, *The Secret History* (1808)  
Th 2/7 Sansay, *The Secret History*

**Su 2/10 Paper 1 Due electronically**

Tu 2/12 Rowlandson, *Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (1682) (S)  
Th 2/14 Winkfield, *The Female American* (1767)

Tu 2/19 Barbary captivity narratives (S); start Tyler, *Algerine Captive* (1798)  
Th 2/21 Tyler, *Algerine Captive* (1798)

Tu 2/26 Equiano, *Interesting Narrative* (1789)  
Th 2/28 Equiano, *Interesting Narrative*

Tu 3/5 Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel* (1798)  
Th 3/7 Rowson, *Reuben and Rachel*

Tu 3/12 Brackenridge, *Modern Chivalry* (1792-1815): volumes I and II (pp 1-101); III.i. through IV.i.  
(139-176)

Th 3/14 Brackenridge, *Modern Chivalry*: volume IV (177-229); Part II, volume I through book ii.iv.  
(230-303).

**Tu 3/19 1-3pm Final Exam in 118 Olson, Final Paper Due**