

English 308
Literature & Culture II

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Texts: *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, 6th edition (Vol. A)

CONTENT: Using texts from the late fifteenth century through the early eighteenth century, this survey course focuses on writings of exploration, conquest, and European imperialism in colonial contact zones. We will draw on a wide range of genres including journals, poems, narratives, sermons, and diaries. We will consider how these various genres challenge our definition(s) of "American" literature(s) and we will examine roles of female discourse, race, religion, and class. We will explore the various ways in which America and American identities are defined, wonder about the tensions between sociopolitical position and discourse, and attempt to arrive at a deeper understanding of influences that shaped American writings during the encounter era.

ASSIGNMENTS: Your assignments will consist of two in-class essay exams (a midterm and a final), frequent participation, diligent reading, and regular attendance. In addition to the grades assigned for the exams, you will receive a grade for participation. Your participation grade will be determined by regular and thoughtful participation in class discussion, attendance (for obvious reasons), and improvement over the quarter.

READING AND DISCUSSION: As students in a 300-level literature course, you are expected to complete the reading for each class meeting and consider your responses to that reading. We all have our off days and some material will move some people more than others, but in general I look forward to questions, comments, answers, and (once in awhile) sound effects.

ATTENDANCE: Regular mental and physical presence in class is required. (This means that bringing your body here isn't at all enough; you have to be here and be awake and engaged.) Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. You are limited to a maximum of four absences. If you miss more than four classes, your knowledge, participation, exam responses, and final grade will be affected and your final grade will be dropped one full grade. If you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course.

Students are expected to arrive promptly for class and to stay for the full class period. Because arriving late disrupts the class, three late arrivals will count as an absence. Please do not schedule appointments or other outside obligations (which would cause you to arrive late for class or to leave early) during the class period.

GRADING POLICY: Your final grade is based on the exam grades, class participation, and attendance. Approximate percentages:

Midterm: 30%
Final: 30%
Participation: 30%
Attendance: 10%

The attached schedule lists our readings and assignments for the term. We will go over the schedule on the first day of class. Finally, if you find yourself beset by difficult circumstances, if you have trouble with the reading, or if you just want to check in, do come and see me. I'm always willing to help. Welcome to class.

SCHEDULE

NOTE: When titles and/or page numbers are not specified for a day's reading, you are to read the entire selection in the *Heath*. Reading assignments are to be completed by the beginning of the class period assigned for discussion of a given text.

APRIL

- W 2 Introduction to the course
- F 4 Background; read around in "Colonial Period: To 1700" essay in Heath.
- M 7 Cluster: Cultural Encounters—A Critical Survey (all excerpts)
- W 9 Native American Oral Narrative (all works)
- F 11 Native American Oral Narrative, cont'd.; also, Handsome Lake, "How America Was Discovered."
- M 14 Native American Oral Poetry (all works)
- W 16 Christopher Columbus, from *Journal of the First Voyage to America, 1492-1493* and from *Narrative of the Third Voyage, 1498-1500*
- F 18 Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, from *Relation of* . . . all chapters in anthology
- M 21 Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà, from *The History of New Mexico*; and "The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt" (Hopi)
- W 23 Bartolomé de las Casas, from *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (class hand-out); Samuel de Champlain, from *The Voyages of* . . .
- F 25 Class discussion.
- M 28 John Smith, from *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*; from *A Description of New England*; and from *Advertisements for the Unexperienced Planters of New England* . . .
- W 30 Exam review.

MAY

- F 2 Mid-term exam (NO MAKE-UP POSSIBLE)
- M 5 Background to Puritanism; read *Heath* essay "New England."

- W 7 William Bradford, from *Of Plymouth Plantation*
- F 9 Anne Bradstreet, "The Prologue," "The Flesh and the Spirit," "To My Dear Children," and "To My Dear and Loving Husband"
- M 12 John Winthrop, from *A Modell of Christian Charity*; and from *The Journal of John Winthrop*
- W 14 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, all works.
- F 16 Introduction to captivity narratives (start reading Rowlandson).
- M 19 Mary Rowlandson, from *A Narrative . . .*
- W 21 Rowlandson, cont'd
- F 23 Cotton Mather, from *Decennium Luctuosum* (Hannah Dustan's Captivity)
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- M 26 No class. Memorial Day holiday.
- W 28 Samson Occom, "A Short Narrative of My Life"; and read around in "A Sermon," but especially read the last two pages.
- F 30 Sarah Kemble Knight, *The Journal of Madam Knight*
- M 2 Olaudah Equiano, from *The Interesting Narrative of . . .*
- W 4 Phillis Wheatley, all poems.
- F 6 Concluding discussion.

The final exam for this course will be comprehensive, will take two hours, and will be held during finals week.

This schedule should give you a good idea of what we're reading and when we're reading it. If we need more or less time on certain works, I will change the schedule. We will, however, cover all readings on the syllabus, so be prepared for the lengthier readings and the essays as they come along.