ENGLISH 3331 – AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1870
Fall 2019

Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts - the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art.

John Ruskin

Centre of equal daughters, equal sons,
All, all alike endear'd, grown, ungrown, young or old,
Strong, ample, fair, enduring, capable, rich,
Perennial with the Earth, with Freedom, Law and Love,
A grand, sane, towering, seated Mother,
Chair'd in the adamant of Time.

Walt Whitman, “America”

Instructor: Chris Ellery
Office: A021B
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF, 8:30-9:30 TR, and 2-3 MTWR
Phone: 486-6142
E-mail: cellery@angelo.edu

Catalog Description
A survey of authors, genres, themes, and movements in American literature before 1870.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the periods, movements, and major authors of American literature from colonial beginnings through the Civil War;
- Analyze American literature in the broader context of American society and culture, including history, religion, philosophy, commerce, and politics;
- Critically analyze and evaluate scholarly works; and
- Apply critical approaches and techniques to the construction of a well-researched and clearly-reasoned argument related to early American literature.

Jamestown Colony, circa 1614
Texts
- “Literary Vocabulary” [web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_M.html](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_M.html).

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Work</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>Exam 1</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal &amp; Progress Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Daily work* includes frequent reading quizzes, group activities, conference paper proposal, and miscellaneous assignments.
- The three *exams* will be a mix of objective and essay questions covering issues, concepts, terms, and films.
- The *critical essay* will be a 6-8-page scholarly essay on a subject related to American literature before 1870.

Personal Conduct and Responsibilities

In this and all college courses, you should conduct yourself with professionalism and collegiality, and you should take responsibility for your own learning and performance. Excellent students are motivated, dedicated, and self-reliant; they have a positive attitude and a good work ethic. You will improve your chances of succeeding in this class by following these rules:

- **Stay focused.** Attend class and be actively involved. Pay attention and participate in discussions. Ask questions when you have them and consult your professor when you have concerns.
- **Be prepared every day.** Critically read all assignments. Conscientiously complete homework and class activities. Keep up with your work.
- **Follow instructions carefully,** especially those on assignment prompts, and prepare assignments according to the guidelines provided.
- **Encourage learning and collaborate** with classmates and support the instructor in the goal of learning.
- **Be courteous.** To avoid distracting others, arrive on time and leave when class is dismissed.
- **Avoid talking in class except when appropriate.** While it is sometimes acceptable and even desirable to question opinions and even facts offered by others (including the teacher), you should do so respectfully and thoughtfully, with learning goals in mind.
• **Silence and put away cell phones.** Do not use any personal electronic devices unless invited to do so as part of the class.
• **Take good care of your body and mind.** Keep yourself nourished and rested.

**Attendance and Make-up Policy**
The following policy is consistent with ASU OP 10.04 (“Academic Regulations Concerning Student Performance”).

- **This is a face-to-face class.** Regular attendance is essential for success in the class. Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of the period. Students who arrive late or do not answer the roll should see the instructor after class to be sure they are counted present. Students who enter during a quiz will not be given extra time to complete it.
- **Be prepared for class each day.** An absence does not excuse the student from being prepared for the next class. Thus, students who miss class should contact a classmate or the instructor to be sure of the assignment for the next class.
- **All assignments are due when called for.** Being permitted to submit work after the deadline gives students an advantage over those who turn work in on time; thus late work will be accepted without penalty only in the case of excused absences. The penalty for an unexcused late submission is one-half letter grade for each day late.
- **Students must present credible documentation to receive an excused absence.** Absences are excused for school travel, illness, or personal or family emergency. Contact the instructor as soon as possible (before a school trip or personal travel) to excuse the absence and arrange make-up work.
- **Daily grades for quizzes and other in-class activities cannot be made up.** Two daily grades will be dropped at the end of the term.
- **E-mailed assignments will be accepted only at the request of the instructor.**

**Departmental Policy on Academic Honesty**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions ([www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf)) of the *Student Handbook*.

**Disabilities**
Student Life has issued the following statement: “Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.”

**Senior Portfolios**
Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts in English are required to complete a portfolio to be eligible for graduation. Students may submit this portfolio after completing all major requirements or in the semester immediately prior to graduation. The portfolio grade will not affect GPA, but will be part of the student's record.
Tentative Schedule
For all reading assignments, consider the author headnote to be part of the assigned material. If you miss class, check with a classmate or the instructor to verify the reading assignment.
A=NAAL Vol. A; B=NAAL Vol. B.

**Week 1**
- **M 8/26**  Course Policies and Procedures
- **W 8/28**  “Beginnings to 1820: Introduction” [A 3-28]
- **F 8/30**  John Smith, from *The General History of Virginia* [A 111-122]
  “Powhatan’s Discourse” [A 52-53]
  “King Philip’s Speech” [A 53-54]

**Week 2**
- **M 9/2**  HOLIDAY
- **W 9/4**  Anne Bradstreet, “The Prologue” [219-220], “The Author to Her Book” [A 236], and “Here Follows Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House” [A 243-244]
- **F 9/6**  Edward Taylor, “Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold” and “Huswifery” [A 307-308]

**Week 3**
- **M 9/9**  Cotton Mather, from *Wonders of the Invisible World* [A 321-327]
- **W 9/11**  Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson* [A 267-301]
- **F 9/13**  St. Jean De Crevecoeur, from *Letters from an American Farmer*, selections from Letters III and IX [A 636-650]

**Week 4**
- **W 9/18**  Franklin, *The Autobiography* Part One [A 467-499 (to “…may be supported”)]
- **F 9/20**  **Pre-Proposal for Critical Essay Due**
  *The Autobiography* Part One [A 499-514] and Part Two [A 519-530]
Week 5  
M 9/23  Thomas Jefferson, from The Autobiography [A 704-711]  
Phillis Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America” [A 789]  
W 9/25  TBA  
F 9/27  TBA  

Week 6  
M 9/30  Review  
W 10/2  Exam 1  
F 10/4  “American Literature 1820-1865: Introduction” [B 3-24]  

Week 7  
M 10/7  Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” [B 29-41]  
W 10/9  “Native Americans: Removal and Resistance” [B 308-327]  
F 10/11  Proposal for Critical Essay Due  
William Cullen Bryant, “Thanatopsis” and “To a Waterfowl” [B 117-119]  

Week 8  
W 10/16  Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance” [B 236-253]  
F 10/18  Henry David Thoreau, from Walden, Chapter 2. “Where I Lived and What I Lived For” [B 1012-1022]  

Week 9  
M 10/21  Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The May-Pole of Merry Mount” [B 360-368]  
William Bradford, from Of Plymouth Plantation Ch XIX (“Mr. Morton of Merrymount”) [A 154-158]  
Thomas Morton, from New English Canaan [A169-176]  

Week 10  
M 10/28  The Scarlet Letter Chs. IX-XVII [B 490-534]  
W 10/30  The Scarlet Letter Chs. XVIII-XXIV [B 534-569]  
F 11/1  Review  

Week 11  
M 11/4  Exam 2  
F 11/8  Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener” [B 1469-1495]
**Week 12**  
**M 11/11**  
**Progress Report for the Critical Essay**  
Whitman, “Preface to Leaves of Grass (1855)” [B 1297-1311]  
Fanny Fern, “Leaves of Grass” [B 896-899]  
**W 11/13**  
Whitman, *Song of Myself* Sections 1-30 [A 1312-1334]  
**F 11/15**  
*Song of Myself* Sections 1- [1334-1356]  

**Week 13**  
**M 11/18**  
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life* Chs. I-IX [B 1171-1197]  
**W 11/20**  
*Narrative of the Life* Ch. X [B 1197-1216]  
**F 11/22**  
*Narrative of the Life* Chs. XI-Appendix [B 1216-1228]  
**Critical Essay Due**

---

**Week 14**  
**M 11/25**  
Whitman, from *Drum-Taps*:  
“Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night” [B 1377],  
“The Wound-Dresser” [B 1379], and  
“Reconciliation” [B 1381]  
**W 11/27**  
HOLIDAY  
**F 11/29**  
HOLIDAY  

**Week 15**  
**M 12/2**  
Emily Dickinson, selected poems  
“225” (“I’m wife – I’ve finised that –”) [B 1662],  
“320” (“There’s a certain Slant of light”) [B 1666]  
“464” (“My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun –”) [B1685-1686]  
“1263” (“Tell all the truth but tell it slant –”) [B1689]  
**W 12/4**  
**F 12/6**  
Review  

**Finals Week**  
**W 12/11**  
**Final Exam** (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)