

# English 3317: American Romantic Literature

**Instructor:** Dr. Gabriela Serrano

**Office:** Academic Building 0019 A

**Office Phone:** 486- 6155

**Office Hours:** TR: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Wednesday Virtual: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**E-mail:** gserrano@angelo.edu

## Course Description

This survey of American literature will focus on Romantic literature of the nineteenth century, and we will also examine the social and political contexts that shaped the texts we will study for this course. We will focus on major authors of the period Washington Irving, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman and lesser-known authors, such as William Apess and Fanny Fern. In addition, students will refine their research skills and gain greater insight into the historical context for early American texts. Moreover, we will come to an understanding of nineteenth-century American culture by closely examining important issues of the time such as theology, social reform, and literature as art.

## Course Objectives

Students will evaluate the course at the end of the semester. The major objectives I emphasize from the course evaluations are:

1. “Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation for literature”
2. “Developing skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing”
3. “Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view”

**Texts** All readings will be accessible online in the “Readings” content area

## Semester Grade

Research Assignments	10%
Weekly Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Seminar Paper	30%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Board Posts	10%

## Research Assignments

A seminar paper takes an entire semester to work on, so students need to begin work on the paper as soon as the class begins. After the midterm, students will complete work that will aid them in the research and writing of the paper.

- Review of Scholarly Articles – Students will complete a Review of a Scholarly Article (2 pp. in length, MLA formatting, Works Cited) to help them begin their general research of American literature. This assignment will familiarize students with using databases, learn to cross-reference research, and understand critics’ arguments.

- Annotated Bibliography – A list of ten sources with a complete bibliographical citation for a critical work followed by two sentences explaining the overall argument of the critical work.
- Outline and Thesis statement – a two page outline that clearly describes the major topics and subtopics that will be discussed in the paper. The outline must be organized and well-developed. At the top of the outline, students must include a thesis statement, which will be one sentence in length and convey the overall argument for the seminar paper.

## **Exams**

There are two required exams over the course of the semester.

- The Midterm Exam will cover material we cover in class until the middle of the semester. It consists of a choice of 2 of 3 essay questions.
- The Final Exam will cover material we cover after the midterm. It consists of a choice of 2 of 3 essay questions.

## **Seminar Paper**

This paper is a longer, individual paper (5-7 pages) over one or more major texts we will be evaluating over the semester. Students will use the Blackboard Research Assignments they work on over the course of the summer session and apply their research to this paper. Students are expected to read, evaluate, and respond to the text(s) critically and deepen their understanding of the text(s). Students must include at least five citations in their paper. (see MLA Handbook for guidelines or the OWL at Purdue: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)

## **Discussion Board Posts**

Since students will only be in class one day a week, discussion posts are vital because allow us to mimic an everyday face-to-face classroom experience. They allow students and the instructor to exchange ideas and learn from one another. These posts will be due at the end of the week, and although students must post at least one comment per week, with the exception of weeks 7, 8, 14, and 15. Students may post as many times as they wish and respond to as many posts as they like. Although I encourage students to feel free to voice their opinions they relate to the subject being discussed, I expect members of this class this class to respect differences of opinion.

## **Quizzes**

Quizzes will cover the assigned readings due for that week. Students may not make up any quizzes, but I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

## **Classroom Civility**

Extend to one another professional courtesies such as:

- Attending all class meetings and arriving on time
- Switching off cell phones and other electronic devices
- Respecting and learning from differences of opinion

## **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 of the Student Handbook:

[http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf) Failure to comply with the honor code will result in disciplinary action and a failing grade in this course.

**I will assign a grade of “F” for the following violations:**

- I. Plagiarism “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit” (Regents’ *Rules and Regulations*, Chapter VI, Section 5.32)
- II. Cheating - this includes copying material from another member of the class, having someone in or outside of class complete an assignment or exam for you.

\*Because Campus Carry will create dangerous situations on our campus, specifically when discussing honor code violations with students, I will schedule a meeting with any students violating the university honor code at a time when a law enforcement officer may be present at the meeting.

**Disabilities Services**

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact ASU’s Disability Services: <http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

**Inclusion Statement**

We will be addressing controversial topics related to underprivileged groups throughout the semester. I support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honor all identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). Please let me if there is a particular name or pronouns by which you identify. Also, please let me know if anything I or your peers may say in class makes you feel excluded or marginalized. You may come see me in my office, leave me a note, and your concerns will remain anonymous.

**Confidential Resources Available to Students:**

Office of Title IX Compliance: 325-486-6357

University Health Clinic: 325-942-2171

University Counseling Center: 325-942-2173

ASU Crisis Helpline: 325-486-6345

**Title IX at Angelo State University:**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D.

You may submit reports in the following manner:

**Online:** [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

**Face to Face:** Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

**Phone:** 325-942-2022

**E-Mail:** [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

### **Texas Tech University System Facial Covering Policy**

The TTU System and its component institutions ("University") require all members of the University Community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors and contractors) to wear protective face coverings<sup>1</sup> on University campuses or in University facilities as provided below:

#### **I. Requirements**

A. In common areas on campus including, but not limited to, classrooms and other spaces used for teaching, research, and creative activity, Student Union, libraries, hallways, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, break rooms, foyers, event rooms and lobbies;

B. In patient care units, ambulatory clinic spaces, or procedural areas; or

C. Other areas where physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained. Even when physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained, face coverings are strongly recommended.

#### **II. Exceptions**

A. When eating or drinking, which should still be conducted maintaining physical distance;

B. In accordance with applicable law (e.g., an accommodation, including for medical reasons, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or pursuant to a bona fide religious belief);

C. For children under the age of 2 years old; or

D. By an instructor/presenter in a classroom or event room when a physical distance of at least 6 feet can be maintained from the class members/audience.

With prior University approval, units and departments may set other reasonable guidelines and policies that are particularly tailored to their specific workplace, healthcare, or learning environment (e.g., residence halls, recreation centers, athletics facilities, performance venues, research facilities, medical clinics).

Although failure to comply with this facial covering policy may lead to disciplinary action, efforts will first be made to educate members of the University Community of the need for facial coverings to control the spread of COVID-19. Warning will be given before disciplinary action is taken.

For More information, please consult the following link:

<https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php>

## Schedule of Readings, Papers, and Exams (Tentative and Subject to Change)

### Week 1

#### Lectures

Course Policies and Syllabus

Lecture on American Romanticism

Washington Irving: “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

### Week 2

#### Lectures

Selections *The Winnebago Trickster Cycle*

William Apess: “An Indian’s Looking Glass for the White Man”

James Fennimore Cooper: selections from *The Last of the Mohicans*

#### Assignments (due Midnight 1/31)

Weekly Quiz

### Week 3

#### Lectures

William Cullen Bryant: “To a Waterfowl”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “A Psalm of Life”

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Divinity School Address”

#### Assignments (due Midnight 2/6)

Weekly Quiz

### Week 4

#### Lectures

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Nature”

Henry David Thoreau: selections from *Walden*

#### Assignments (due Midnight 2/13)

Weekly Quiz

### Week 5

### **Lecture**

Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

### **Assignments (due Midnight 2/20)**

Weekly Quiz

### **Week 6**

### **Lectures**

Herman Melville: "Benito Cereno"

Henry David Thoreau: "A Plea for Captain John Brown"

### **Assignments (due Midnight 2/27)**

Weekly Quiz

### **Week 7**

### **Lecture**

*Review for Midterm Exam*

### **Assignment (due Midnight 3/6)**

Midterm Exam

### **Week 8**

### **Lectures**

Louisa May Alcott: *Behind a Mask*

Lecture on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Lady's Journals

Fanny Fern: "Fresh Leaves, by Fanny Fern"

### **Week 9**

### **Lectures**

Lecture on Light and Dark Romanticism

Henry David Thoreau: "Resistance to Civil Government"

Herman Melville: "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

### **Assignments (due Midnight 3/20)**

Annotated Bibliography

## Weekly Quiz

### Week 10

#### Lectures

Edgar Allan Poe:      “Hop Frog”  
Students’ Choice

#### Assignments (due Midnight 3/27)

Weekly Quiz

### Week 11

Nathaniel Hawthorne <3:      selections from *The Scarlet Letter*

“Wakefield”

“Young Goodman Brown”

#### Assignments (due Midnight 4/3)

Weekly Quiz

### Week 12

#### Lectures

Walt Whitman:      “Song of Myself”  
“Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking”  
“The Wound Dresser”

#### Assignments (due Midnight 4/10)

Outline and Thesis Statement

Weekly Quiz

### Week 13

#### Lectures

Emily Dickinson:      “Because I could not stop for Death”  
“The Soul selects her own Society”  
“My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun”  
“The Soul has Bandaged moments”

#### Assignments (due Midnight 4/24)

Survey Paper

## **Week 14**

### **Students' Choice**

## **Week 15**

*Review for Final Exam*

**Assignment (due 5/12 at 10:00 a.m.)**

Final Exam