

## English 205 American Literature I

Dr. Matthew Teutsch

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Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00, TR 3:00-4:30 or by appt.

### Course Description and Objectives

The prerequisite for English 205 is a grade of “C” or better in English 102. This course will cover “American” literature from its beginnings to mid-way through the nineteenth century. Through the texts we will read and discuss, you will hopefully gain an understanding and appreciation of our cultural inheritance. Through literary works, we will understand the historical and cultural implications of early American life and relate them to modern culture. This course should also prompt you to employ critical thinking skills as we investigate the ever-changing American literary canon.

### Required Materials

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (Volumes A and B). Ed. Nina Baym.

Internet Access

### Course Requirements and Explanation of Grading

Attendance and Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Glossary	15%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Blog Posts and Responses	20%
Final Exam	25%

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 or below

***Attendance and In-Class Participation***— Although I believe that as adults you should have control over your own education, attendance is vital to your success in this course. Much of your learning and work will take place in class, and you will be involved in discussing the readings in class. To fully comprehend and hopefully appreciate the texts, you should come to class fully prepared. This means you should have read the homework and completed any assignments for class. You are allowed two absences; after you miss the allowed number of classes, your grade will be penalized. If you miss five classes, you will receive nothing higher than a B; six absences will result in nothing higher than a C; seven will result in nothing higher than a D. If you miss more than seven classes, you will automatically receive an F. *I will not accept any more work if this occurs.*

Daily attendance is not sufficient to guarantee you a passing participation grade. Any activities taking place during class time contribute to your in-class participation grade. This includes note-taking during lectures, actively participating during discussion, and otherwise participating in class activities. There will be small group discussions during classes and other activities that will be part of this grade.

***Glossary***—When reading, you will come across words that you may not know, or they may have a different meaning that is unfamiliar. With that in mind, the glossary, which will be on Moodle, will be a place to post those words and definitions for them. For the glossary, you will be separated into 6 groups. Each group will input glossary terms for a two week period. The due dates are below. You

must post ten terms and provide a 50-100 word definition. The same term cannot be posted more than once. **I will not accept late submissions if the due date for your group has passed.**

***Blog Posts and Responses***—Reading literature is not a solitary activity. While you may read alone, literature is meant to be discussed and contemplated. With that in mind, you will be required to construct six blog posts in response to prompts that I provide. Along with your posts, you will respond to a fellow student's initial post. I will discuss with you proper etiquette for these posts and responses. You must turn the post in on the date that it is due. **I will not accept late posts.**

#### **Due Dates for Glossary and Blog Posts:**

1. **February 3**
2. **February 24**
3. **March 10**
4. **March 24**
5. **April 14**
6. **April 28**

***Mid-term and Final Exams***—The mid-term and final exams will consist of definition/identification questions, short answer questions, and long essay questions. Only the works we discuss in class or that I otherwise specify will be covered on the exams. The mid-term and final will be take home. The mid-term will include material up to February 24 while the final will mainly focus on material after that date; however, the final may have questions about some of the material from the first part of the semester.

#### **Late and Make-up Work**

1. Assignments are due on the Due Date. **They will not be accepted late.**
2. Late daily assignments will be failed if unexcused.
3. Quizzes cannot be made up
4. Exams will not be made-up unless the student provides an excuse from the Dean of Students.

#### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

The English Department wishes students to have a clear idea of what plagiarism is from the start so there can be no mistakes later.

There are two major types of plagiarism:

1. Word-for-word copying, without acknowledgement, of the language of another writer. (Almost needless to say, having another person write or dictate all or part of one's composition is plagiarism of this kind and clearly forbidden. But in addition students should copy no printed passages, no matter how brief, without acknowledging its source and either placing it in quotation marks or setting it aside as a blocked quotation.)
2. The unacknowledged paraphrasing of an author's ideas. (The student should no more take credit for another writer's thoughts than for another writer's language. Any distinctly original idea taken from another writer should be credited to its author. If the student does not know whether another writer's idea is distinctly original, he or she should incline to believe that it is; no fault attaches to over-acknowledgment, but under-acknowledgment is plagiarism.)

Because of its serious nature, a case involving plagiarism is referred to the Discipline Committee, which can recommend that the student, if found guilty, be dismissed from the university. (See Code of Student Conduct, Section 15, Point 7.)

### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center is a free service located on the first floor of Griffin Hall, in room 107. The Writing Center consultants are experienced writers and students who pride themselves on creating a comfortable environment for every phase of your writing project. From thesis statements, to research planning, document design, to just getting started, the Writing Center staff works to help you become more focused, organized, and confident with your work. In addition to providing the latest style manuals and handbooks, the Writing Center also operates a computer lab, located next door in Griffin Hall, room 108. Both of these services are free, student-operated, and devoted to helping you be a more successful and productive student. Walk-ins are accepted, but scheduling an appointment in advance (482-5224) is recommended. Appointments that are more than ten minutes late will have to be rescheduled.

### **Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette makes accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office at 337.482.5252 or [ssd@louisiana.edu](mailto:ssd@louisiana.edu) during the first week of classes. SSD will assist you with an accommodation plan. The university also has a Supported Education Program (SEP, <http://disability.louisiana.edu/SEP.html>), which provides free confidential help on campus for students with psychological disabilities (Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, etc.). Please contact Kim A. Warren, MSW, PhD, LCSW, Supported Education Advisor, at [kimawarren@louisiana.edu](mailto:kimawarren@louisiana.edu) or in Conference Center room 126.

### **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

A map of this floor is posted near the elevator and most fire extinguishers. This map shows evacuation routes and the Designated Rescue Area, the area to which emergency personnel will first go to seek out individuals who require assistance in exiting the building.

### **Miscellaneous**

On a final, I hope unnecessary, note, here are some additional guidelines regarding classroom decorum.

- Cell phones are to be turned off (not switched to vibrate) and put away during class. If your cell phone goes off, you will be asked to leave class and lose your participation points for the day.

- It is acceptable to have a (non-alcoholic) drink in class, but please refrain from eating.

- Bonus points may occasionally be offered to the class as a whole. Solicitations of extra credit, however, will be denied. Please don't ask.

- I respect confidentiality in the student-teacher relationship. I expect that you respect this confidentiality as well.

- Be considerate of your fellow students. This course will involve a good deal of discussion, so please respect civil discourse when addressing your fellow students and allowing everyone to share their opinions.

**Any and all information in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If changes are made, efforts will be made to notify you as soon as possible.**

## Tentative Readings for English 205

Class Date	Readings
January 20	Beginnings to 1700 Introduction Stories from the Beginning of the World Casas "The Coast of Pearls" Smith "A Description of New England" Bradford selections from <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i>
January 27	Morton <i>New English Canaan</i> Winthrop <i>A Model of Christian Charity</i> Selections from <i>The Journal of John Winthrop</i> Bradstreet selections Taylor selections
February 3	American Literature 1700-1820 Introduction Rowlandson <i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson</i> Sewall <i>The Selling of Joseph</i> Knight <i>The Private Journal of a Journey from Boston to New York</i> <b>Group 1 Glossary and Entire Class Blog Posts Due</b>
February 10	Edwards <i>Personal Narrative and Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God</i> Native Americans: Contact and Conflict Franklin selections De Crèvecoeur Letter III and Letter IX
February 17	Mardi Gras
February 24	Mid-Term and Concert Paine <i>Common Sense</i> Jefferson <i>Notes on the State of Virginia</i> Query XIV Wheatley selections <b>Group 2 Glossary and Entire Class Blog Posts Due</b>
March 3	Hammon <i>A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings, and Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon, a Negro Man</i> Equiano <i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavas Vassa, the African, Written by Himself</i> Marrant <i>A Narrative of the Lord's Wonderful Dealings with John Marrant, a Black</i>
March 10	Tyler <i>The Contrast</i> Foster selections from <i>The Coquette; or, the History of Eliza Wharton</i> <b>Group 3 Glossary and Entire Class Blog Posts Due</b>
March 17	Cooper <i>The Pioneers and The Last of the Mohicans</i> Sedgwick <i>Hope Leslie</i> Sigourney "To the First Slave Ship," "Indian Names," "Slavery," "Our Aborigines" Schoolcraft "Moowis, The Indian Coquette"
March 24	Native Americans: Removal and Resistance Apess <i>A Son of the Forest and An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man</i> Child "The Quadroons," "Slavery's Pleasant Homes," "She Waits in the Spirit Land," "A Legend of the Fall of St. Anthony" <b>Group 4 Glossary and Entire Class Blog Posts Due</b>
March 31	Slavery, Race, and the Making of American Literature Sedgwick <i>A Slave Story I began and Abandoned</i>

	Poe "The Black Cat" and "Hop Frog" Russwurm selections Boudinot selections
April 7	Easter/Spring Break
April 14	Stowe selections from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Brown <i>Clotel; or, the President's Daughter</i> New Orleans literature selections <b>Group 5 Glossary and Entire Class Blog Posts Due</b>
April 21	Jacobs <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> Douglass selections from <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
April 28	Douglass <i>The Heroic Slave</i> Melville <i>Benito Cereno</i> <b>Group 6 Glossary and Entire Class Blog Posts Due</b>
May 5	Finals