

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English
English 321: American Literature I
Fall, 2011

I. Locator Information

Professor: G McConnell
Course: ENGL 321: American Literature I Office: Butler 124
Semester Hours of Credit: 3 Office Hours: 9—11 TR; 9—1 W
Day and Time: Section 01: 12:30—1:45 TR Office Phone: 910-672-1902
Total Class Contact Hours: 45 hours per semester
E-mail address: gmccconnell@uncfsu.edu

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. Course Description:

American Literature I is a survey of the major writers of America from the earliest efforts at colonization through the Civil War. *Prerequisite: ENGL 223 or 240.*

III. Disabled Student Services:

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding building, room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Textbooks and Materials:

Textbook: Nina Baym, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (Shorter Seventh Edition) W. W. Norton and Company, 2008.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze texts from diverse historical periods and cultures.
2. Compose diverse researched and original texts in varied genres and formats, using various composing processes, technologies, and multimodal formats.
3. Present materials effectively to various audiences using a variety of formats and appropriate technologies.
4. Locate and evaluate resources, and incorporate and cite sources according to the MLA style manual.

English 321
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VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Graded work includes the following:

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|---------------------------|-----|
| 3 tests at 20% each: | 60% |
| 4 quiz grades at 5% each: | 20% |
| 1 paper (2,000 words): | 20% |

Quizzes will ask students to write a paragraph identifying a specific literary passage or term. Quizzes missed cannot be made up. Students must make up their minds to take the tests at the scheduled times. Tests will require students to identify quotations, authors, and literary terms. Students who think they will be unable to meet course requirements should drop the course.

The paper will provide students an opportunity to address a specific issue suggested by one of the texts discussed in class. The paper should be a research-based response, presenting at least four sources (not including the literary text), based on the student's understanding of the text. As a sample of academic writing, the paper must be written in third person. The deadline for late papers extends only to the next class day, and the late paper will be taxed ten percent. A rough draft of the paper will be due on the date noted on the syllabus, and the grade on the draft will be counted as a quiz grade.

VII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

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| August | 18 | Course Introduction |
| | 23 | Syllabus Overview and Explanation of Assignments |
| | 25 | John Smith: the <i>New England</i> material |
| | 30 | William Bradford: Book I: IX and X |
| September | 1 | Book II: XI, XIX, XXXIV |
| | 6 | Anne Bradstreet: "Prologue," "Author to Her Book," "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth," "Contemplations" |
| | 8 | Edward Taylor: "Upon Wedlock and Death of Children," "Upon a Wasp Chilled With Cold," "Huswifery," "A Fig for Thee, Oh! Death" |
| | 13 | Benjamin Franklin: <i>The Autobiography</i> Part I |
| | 15 | <i>The Autobiography</i> Part II |
| | 20 | Thomas Paine: (all) |
| | 22 | St. Jean De Crevecoeur: (all) |
| | 27 | ***Test #1*** |

- 29 Nathaniel Hawthorne: “My Kinsman, Major Molineux”
“Young Goodman Brown”
- October 4 Edgar Allan Poe: *The Philosophy of Composition*
“Annabel Lee,” “Ligeia,”
- 6 Researching Databases
- 11 Thomas Jefferson: *Notes on the State of Virginia*: Queries XVII and XIX
- 13 Website Visit and Response: Luminism: Butler 312
- 18 Fall Break
- 20 ***Test #2***
- 25 Ralph Waldo Emerson : “Self-Reliance”
- 27 Henry David Thoreau: *Walden (Economy through Where I Lived . . .)*
Rough Draft of Paper Due
- 28 Last Day to Drop a Course
- November 1 Henry David Thoreau: *Walden (Economy through Where I Lived . . .)*
- 3 James Fenimore Cooper: *The Pioneers*: Chapter III
- 8 William Cullen Bryant: “To a Waterfowl,” “Thanatopsis,” “The Prairies”
- 10 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “A Psalm of Life,” “The Jewish
Cemetery at Newport,”
- ***Research Paper Due***
- 15 Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life* (Chapters VII and X)
- 17 Walt Whitman: *Preface to Leaves of Grass* (to be speed read);
Song of Myself: 1, 2, 5, 11, 16, 32, 52
- 22 “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”; “Beat! Beat! Drums”; “Cavalry
Crossing a Ford”; “Wound-Dresser”
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 29 Emily Dickinson: 320, 340, 373, 479, 519, 591
- December 1 207, 409, 656, 1096, 1263

Test #3 during exam schedule

The ten-point grading scale is in effect: 90—100=A, 80—89=B, and so forth. Class will include lecture and discussion, supplemented by visual media, including Internet research.

A ten-point grading scale is in effect: 90=A, 80=B, 70=C, 60=D.

VIII. Teaching Strategies

Class will pursue a format of lecture, occasional reading, discussion, and written reflection on the texts.

IX. Bibliography

Barnard, Rita. *The Great Depression and the Culture of Abundance: Kenneth Fearing, Nathaniel West, and Mass Culture*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Harper, Philip Brian. *Framing the Margins: The Social Logic of Postmodern Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Loving, Jerome. *Lost in the Customhouse: Authorship in the American Renaissance*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1993.

Nealon, Jeffrey. *Doublereading: Postmodernism After Deconstruction*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.

Rowe, John Carlos. *At Emerson's Tomb: The Politics of Classic American Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Tracy, Susan J. *In the Master's Eye: Representations of Women, Blacks, and Poor Whites in Antebellum Southern Literature*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1995.