



College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Language and Literature

ENGL 2110 - American Literature: Beginnings to 1865

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of American literature from the colonial period through the Civil War, emphasizing some of the major authors and literary movements and identifying themes common to various historical periods, particularly pertaining to the authors and works that attempted to shape the public consciousness.

COURSE PURPOSE

In this course, students will identify the major periods, authors and works in American literature from the colonial period through the Civil War. The course will examine historical and cultural influences that have shaped the development of American literature. Writers did not write in isolation; they were influenced by historical events and cultural shifts taking place during their era. The class emphasis will explore how those writers have, in turn, influenced present day America. Furthermore, the class will demonstrate that these writers and their ideas remain relevant for contemporary society. Most of the writers have been specifically chosen for their civic engagement through their written works.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Apply the basic principles of literary study/textual analysis to a variety of texts.
- Produce at least one essay demonstrating critical reading, analysis, research and writing skills.
- Appreciate the ideas put forth in major works of American literature.
- Gain an understanding and definition of American literature.
- Understand the motivation of the writers to address their own time and the future through their writings.

SECTIONS

The class will cover the European colonization/exploration of North America, the British colonial period, and the emergence of literature by citizens of the newly-founded United States of America. Attention will also be paid to writings by women, religious minorities, Native American, and African American writers.

DROP BOXES

All writing assignments will have a dropbox. The box will lock after the assignment's due date. I require a digital upload to D2L drop boxes. **I will not accept assignments by email.**

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

The ITS Help Desk is the first point of contact for technical assistance via telephone, email, chat, or walk-in support. If you have problems with any of the technology used with this class, you will need to contact the ITS Help Desk. Requests that cannot be resolved by Help Desk technicians are escalated to the next level of support for specialized assistance. Service is available to all ETSU students, faculty, and staff. Visit the [Help Desk website](#) for instructions, current operating hours, and contact information. The phone number is 423-439-4648.

TEXTS (Required)

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 9th edition (2017), Volume A: Beginning to 1820; and Volume B: 1820-1865.

Make certain you acquire these texts. Do not delay. They are essential for successfully completing the course. In addition to the texts, you will need reliable access to computers, MS Word and media for saving your work, such as a flash drive. A dictionary and a thesaurus are also recommended as useful tools. The textbooks are available in an electronic format, as well.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS / FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Participation is a must. Participation includes completion of all assignments by their expected due dates. Quizzes for reading comprehension will be conducted.

Midterm exam (200 points) (Multiple choice, true/false/short answer, short essay) 20% of overall grade. The mid-term will be given once we complete the material from the first of the two books in the anthology set. I expect to finish the first half of the semester around the first of October.

Final exam (200 points) (Multiple choice, true/false/short answer, short essay) 20% of overall grade.

Quizzes (200 points total) 20% of overall grade. I will attempt to give seven quizzes. If successful, I will grade only your five highest quiz grades to arrive at your total. I do not provide makeups for missed quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 40 points.

Class Essay (200 points) 20 percent of overall grade.

Biographies (75 points)

Three completed biography sheets. Each is worth 25 points.

Discussion Board Responses (125 points)

Grade depends on the percentage of Discussion Boards you complete. If you complete all of them, you get 125 points. The individual Responses are worth about 9 points each. (There is actually a bonus point built into this assignment. $14 \times 9 = 126$) For each Response not completed, a deduction of 9 points will be made from the total of 126.

ASSISTANCE

ETSU offers free writing assistance at the Center for Academic Achievement. This tutoring is open to all students and will be available remotely. Counseling and mental health services are

available to all students through the ETSU Counseling Center.

Students with special needs should seek accommodation through ETSU's Disability Services by calling 423-439-8346.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this department, and it has serious consequences, including failure of the course and possible dismissal from the university.

The MLA Handbook defines plagiarism as repeating...as your own someone else's sentences, more or less verbatim..... Other forms of plagiarism include repeating someone else's particularly apt phrase without appropriate acknowledgment, paraphrasing another person's argument as your own, and presenting another's line of thinking as though it were your own. Familiarize yourself with the ETSU plagiarism policy (found in the ETSU Spectrum Student Handbook), the ETSU Honor Code (found in the Undergraduate Catalog), and the TBR Policy on Academic Dishonesty (http://www.tbr.state.tn.us/policies_guidelines/student_policies/3-02-00-01.htm).

Please note that academic writing depends upon acknowledging the sources of your arguments and information. In college, the more you demonstrate that you have learned from others, the smarter you look. When you use ideas and language from sources, you need to adhere to an accepted format for acknowledging (citing) your source, following an appropriate style guide (for English, that means "MLA"). This course will give you practice in doing so. Occasionally, a student is tempted to purchase a paper online;

what such students forget is that, if you can find a paper online, so can your teachers. Academic dishonesty is demoralizing to the educational process. If I discover deliberate plagiarism, it is my responsibility to meet with the student and to inform my department chairperson and the college dean.