

English 207: Survey of American Literature

Fall 2007

Professor Susan Farrell

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Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:30; W 2-3 and by appt.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed as an introductory survey of American literature, spanning from the pre-colonial era to the post-World War II era.

Students in this course should demonstrate knowledge of the literary and cultural history of the United States, which includes (a) familiarity with topics, themes, and literary techniques of a representative selection of these works and an understanding of how the works reflect the eras and cultures in which they were written; and (b) familiarity with some of the ways these works of literature have been interpreted and appreciated by others. Students should demonstrate this knowledge through written exams and original essays in which they analyze and interpret literary texts. The course should develop students' close reading and critical thinking skills and improve students' ability to express themselves through speaking and writing.

Texts:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature (Shorter 7th 2-volume edition)

Other texts available via Library E-Reserve

Graded Requirements:

Participation/Quizzes	15%
Paper 1	10%
Paper 2	15%
Paper 3	15%
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	15%
Final Exam	20%

Numerical Values for Grades:

A+ = 96-100	A = 92-95	A- = 89-91
B+ = 86-88	B = 82-85	B- = 79-81
C+ = 76-78	C = 72-75	C- = 69-71
D+ = 66-68	D = 62-65	D- = 59-61
F = 58 and below		

Policies and Other Information:

1. Attendance is mandatory: The course will include frequent unannounced quizzes and in-class writing. Students who are absent will receive zeros on these assignments. Although I will drop the lowest quiz grade, a significant number of absences will substantially lower your final course average.

2. Papers/Exams: There will be three short (3-4 page) papers assigned during the course of the semester. I will hand out topics and discuss assignments in detail closer to their due dates. When grading student papers, I will look primarily for content (evidence of original thinking, claims supported by textual evidence, and logic). But I will also focus on effective organization, sentence clarity and variety, and grammatical correctness.

Papers are due at the beginning of class on their due dates and must be turned in directly to the professor, **not e-mailed**. Late papers will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late (weekends excluded). I will not accept written work after the day of the final exam.

There will be two exams during the regular semester as well as a final exam after classes end.

These exams will contain a mix of objective and essay questions. I will provide more information about each exam before its scheduled date.

3. Academic Dishonesty: The College of Charleston enforces a strict policy of academic honesty, as detailed in *The College of Charleston Student Handbook: A Guide to Civil and Honorable Conduct*. Any student who incorporates the words or ideas of others in an essay without proper acknowledgment, or who commits any other form of academic dishonesty, will be turned in to the College Honor Board. An Honor Board conviction will result in an "F" for the entire course. If you are unsure about whether you are using proper documentation, refer to a MLA style manual or see me about your questions.

Course Schedule: Be sure to read all items before class on the day they're listed. Be sure to read all author headnotes as well.

Week 1

W August 22 Course Introduction

F August 24 Course Introduction

Week 2

M August 27

Christopher Columbus:

--"The First Voyage: The West Indies" (Library E-Reserve)

--"The Second Voyage: The Cannibals" (Library E-Reserve)

--"The Third Voyage: The Terrestrial Paradise" (Library E-Reserve)

Handsome Lake:

--"How America Was Discovered" (Library E-Reserve)

John Smith:

--All Selections in Norton, Vol. 1

W August 29

William Bradford:

--From *Of Plymouth Plantation* (All Selections in Norton, Vol. 1)

John Winthrop:

"A Model of Christian Charity" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Thomas Morton:

-- The Maypole at Merrymount (Library E-Reserve)

F August 31

Anne Bradstreet:

--All poems in Norton, except "Contemplations"

--"On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet, Who Died on 16 November, 1669, being but a Month, and One Day Old" (Library E-Reserve)

Edward Taylor:

--"Meditation 8" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Huswifery" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Mary Rowlandson:

--From *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (All Selections in Norton, Vol. 1)

Week 3

M Sept. 3

Discussion

W Sept. 5

Jonathan Edwards:--*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* (Norton, Vol. 1)-- *Personal Narrative* (Norton, Vol. 1)**Benjamin Franklin:**--From *The Autobiography* (Norton, Vol. 1, 231-247; 267-268; 281-300.)

F Sept. 7

Thomas Jefferson:--*The Declaration of Independence* (Norton, Vol. 1)--From *Notes on the State of Virginia* (Norton, Vol. 1)**J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur:**--From *Letters from an American Farmer* (Norton, Vol. 1)**Thomas Paine:**--From *Common Sense* (Norton, Vol. 1)**Week 4**

M Sept. 10

Discussion

W Sept. 12

Phillis Wheatley:

--"The Preface" (Library E-Reserve)

--"On Being Brought from Africa to America" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"To the University of Cambridge, in New England" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Olaudah Equiano:

--From "The Interesting Narrative" (Norton, Vol. 1)

F Sept. 14

William Cullen Bryant:

--"To a Waterfowl" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"The Prairies" (Norton, Vol. 1)

William Apess:

--"An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Ralph Waldo Emerson:

--"Each and All" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Blight" (Library E-Reserve)

Week 5

M Sept. 17

Discussion; **Paper 1 Due**

W Sept. 19

Ralph Waldo Emerson:

--"Self-Reliance" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Henry David Thoreau:

--"Resistance to Civil Government" (Norton, Vol. 1)

F Sept. 21

Frederick Douglass:--From *Narrative of the Life* (Norton, Vol. 1, pp. 931-934; 944-950; 956-983)**David Walker:**

--From "Appeal" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Angelina Grimké:

--"Appeal to the Christian Women of the South" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Harriet Jacobs:

--From *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (All Selections in Norton, Vol 1)

Week 6

M Sept. 24

Discussion

W Sept. 26

Exam I

F Sept. 28

Edgar Allan Poe:

--"The Fall of the House of Usher" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"The Raven" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"The Philosophy of Composition" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Nathaniel Hawthorne:

--"The Minister's Black Veil" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Week 7

M Oct. 1

Discussion

W Oct. 3

Walt Whitman:

--"Song of Myself," Sections 1-11; 48-52 (Norton, Vol. 1)

Emily Dickinson:

--"Success is counted sweetest" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"I taste a liquor never brewed" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Some keep the Sabbath going to Church" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Wild Nights—Wild Nights!" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"I know that He exists" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"The Soul selects her own Society" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"This was a Poet" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Because I could not stop for Death" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"The Brain—is wider than the Sky" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Publication—is the Auction" (Norton, Vol. 1)

--"Apparently with no surprise" (Norton, Vol. 1)

F Oct. 5

Herman Melville:

--"Bartleby the Scrivener" (Norton, Vol. 1)

Mark Twain:

--"Buck Fanshawe's Funeral" (Library E-Reserve)

--"Eve Speaks" (Library E-Reserve)

Week 8

M Oct 8

Discussion

W Oct 10

Rebecca Harding Davis:

--*Life in the Iron Mills* (Norton, Vol. 1)

Charlest Chesnutt:

--"The Passing of Grandison (Norton, Vol. 2)

Zitkala-Sa:

--From *Impressions of an Indian Childhood* (Norton, Vol. 2)

F Oct 12

Henry James:

--*Daisy Miller: A Study* (Norton, Vol. 2)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman:

--"The Yellow Wallpaper" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Sarah Piatt:

--"The Palace-Burner" (Library E-Reserve)

--"We Two" (Library E-Reserve)

Week 9

M Oct 15

Fall Break

W Oct 17

Discussion

F Oct. 19

Stephen Crane:

--"The Open Boat" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--*The Black Riders*, VI & XXIV (Norton, Vol. 2)

Robert Frost:

--"Home Burial" (Library E-Reserve)

--"Mending Wall" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"After Apple-Picking" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"The Wood Pile" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"The Road Not Taken" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"Desert Places" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"Design" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Week 10

M Oct 22

Discussion; **Paper 2 Due**

W Oct 24

Ernest Hemingway:

--"Soldier's Home" (Library E-Reserve)

--"A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" (Library E-Reserve)

Katherine Anne Porter:

--"The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" (Library E-Reserve)

F Oct 26

Wallace Stevens:

--"Sunday Morning" (Norton, Vol. 2)

William Carlos Williams:

--"The Young Housewife" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"Spring and All" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"To Elsie" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"The Red Wheelbarrow" (Norton, Vol. 2)

e.e. cummings:

--"Buffalo Bill's" (Norton, Vol. 2)

- "I sing of Olaf glad and big" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "anyone lived in a pretty how town" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- Edna St. Vincent Millay:**
- "Apostrophe to Man" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "I Too beneath Your Moon, Almighty Sex" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "I Forgot for a Moment" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Week 11

M Oct 29

Discussion

W Oct 31

Langston Hughes:

- "Harlem" (Library E-Reserve)
- "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "I, Too" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Countee Cullen:

- "Yet Do I Marvel" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "Heritage" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Claude McKay:

- "The Harlem Dancer" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "America" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "If We Must Die" (Norton, Vol. 2)

F Nov 2

Jean Toomer:

- From *Cane* (All Selections in Norton, Vol. 2)
- "Blood-Burning Moon" (Library E-Reserve)

Zora Neale Hurston:

- "How it Feels to Be Colored Me" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "The Gilded Six-Bits" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Week 12

M Nov 5

Discussion

W Nov 7

Exam II

F Nov 9

William Faulkner:

- "A Rose for Emily" (Norton, Vol. 2)
- "Barn Burning" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Eudora Welty:

- "Petrified Man" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Week 13

M Nov 12

Discussion

W Nov 14

Ralph Ellison:

- Prologue from *Invisible Man* (Library E-Reserve)
- "Battle Royale" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Richard Wright:

- "The Man Who Lived Underground" (Library E-Reserve)

Gwendolyn Brooks:

--"the mother" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"We Real Cool" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"The Sundays of Satin-Legs Smith" (Library E-Reserve)

F Nov 16

Allen Ginsberg:

--"Howl" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"Footnote t Howl" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"A Supermarket in California" (Norton, Vol. 2)

Bob Dylan:

--"The Times They Are A-Changin'" (Library E-Reserve)

--"Like a Rolling Stone" (Library E-Reserve)

Tom Wolfe:

--From *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* (Library E-Reserve)

Week 14

M Nov 19

Discussion

W Nov 21

Thanksgiving

F Nov 23

Thanksgiving

Week 15

M Nov 26

Tim O'Brien:

--How to Tell a True War Story" (Library E-Reserve)

Yusef Komunyakaa:

--"Facing It" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"We Never Know" (Library E-Reserve)

W Nov 28

Bobbie Ann Mason:

--"Shiloh" (Library E-Reserve)

Raymond Carver:

--"What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" (Library E-Reserve)

F Nov 30

Gish Jen:

--"Who's Irish" (Library E-Reserve)

Helena Maria Viramontes:

--"The Cariboo Café" (Library E-Reserve)

Louise Erdrich:

--"Dear John Wayne" (Norton, Vol. 2)

--"Indian Boarding School: The Runaways" (Library E-Reserve)

--"Captivity" (Library E-Reserve)

Week 16

M Dec. 3

Class wrap-up/Evaluations; **Paper 3 Due**

M Dec. 10th

Final Exam, 8-11