

English 2H06

American Literature

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Objectives

You will read books by American writers and think about them in class discussion and at home in bed, and you will write essays on them. You will have these books open in front of you at lunch and will sneak peaks at them on the bus and in shopping lines and while you're getting your hair cut. You will talk to your friends and family about them. By the end of the course you will be singing the praises of Whitman and Hawthorne and Cather; you will stop people on the street and tell them about how these writers have changed your life and how you can never go back to the way you were and wouldn't want to anyway. You will think, if I ever have any children I will name them Emily or Nathaniel. And you will probably dress differently.

Texts

Baym et al., *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Shorter Seventh
Custom Courseware (available at Underground Media & Design, MUSC B117)
Melville, *Moby Dick*, Penguin
Melville, *Billy Budd, Sailor*, University of Chicago
Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, Penguin Classics, revised edition
Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*, Vintage
Cather, *The Professor's House*, Vintage
Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Grove
Hurstun, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Harper and Row

Itinerary

Term One

Week 1	Sept 12	Introductory Class
	Sept 14	Edgar Allan Poe: Norton: "The Raven" and "The Philosophy of Composition"
2	Sept 19	Poe: Courseware: "Sonnet-To Science," "Romance," "To Helen," "Israfel," "The City in the Sea," "To - - - . Ulalume: A Ballad"; Norton: "Annabel Lee"
	Sept 21	Poe: Courseware: "The Assignment," "Eleanora"; Norton: "Ligeia," "The Fall of the House of Usher"
3	Sept 26	Poe: Courseware: "William Wilson"; Norton: "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Black Cat"
	Sept 28	Poe: Courseware: "The Cask of Amontillado," "Hop-Frog," "Masque of the Red Death"
4	Oct 03	Poe: Courseware: "Murders in the Rue Morgue"; Norton: "The Purloined Letter"
	Oct 05	Nathaniel Hawthorne: Norton: "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," "Young Goodman Brown," "The May-Pole of Merry Mount"
5	Oct 10	THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS
	Oct 12	Hawthorne: Norton: "The Minister's Black Veil"; Courseware: "Man of Adamant," "Lady Eleanore's Mantle"
6	Oct 17	Hawthorne: Norton: "The Birth-Mark"; Courseware: "Rappaccini's Daughter"
	Oct 19	Hawthorne: <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
7	Oct 24	Hawthorne: <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	Oct 26	Hawthorne: <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
8	Oct 31	Herman Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> (chs. 1-54, 72, 87, 93, 96, 99, 100, 106-110, 117, 123, 125-135, Epilogue) Essay # 1
	Nov 2	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i>
9	Nov 7	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i>
	Nov 9	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i>
10	Nov 14	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i>
	Nov 16	Melville, <i>Billy Bud</i>
11	Nov 21	Melville, <i>Billy Bud</i>
	Nov 23	Henry David Thoreau, Norton: "Resistance to Civil Government" ("Civil Disobedience")
12	Nov 28	Thoreau: Norton: <i>Walden</i> : "Where I Lived, and What I lived For"
	Nov 30	Thoreau: Norton: <i>Walden</i> : "Where I Lived, and What I lived For"
13	Dec 5	REVIEW CLASS Essay # 2

Term 2

Week 1	Jan 4	Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself" Sections 1-15, 24	
2	Jan 9	Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser"	
	Jan 11	Walt Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"	
		Langston Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "I, too"	
3	Jan 16	Emily Dickinson, 359 [328] [A Bird came down the Walk -]	
		373 [501] [This World is not conclusion]	
		598 [632] [The Brain - is wider than the Sky -]	
4	Jan 18	Emily Dickinson, 591 [465] [I heard a Fly buzz - when I died -]	
		207 [214] [I taste a liquor never brewed -]	
		479 [712] [Because I could not stop for Death -]	
5	Jan 23	Mark Twain, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	Reading Quiz
	Jan 25	Mark Twain, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	
6	Jan 30	Robert Frost, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,"	
		"Mowing,"	
	Feb 1	Robert Frost, "The Wood-Pile," "Design"	
7	Feb 6	Wallace Stevens, "The Snow Man," Anecdote of the Jar,"	
	Feb 8	Wallace Stevens, "The Emperor of Ice Cream,"	
		"Idea of Order at Key West"	
8	Feb 13	Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying</i>	Reading Quiz
	Feb 15	Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying</i>	
Reading Week, February 20-25			
9	Feb 27	Eugene O'Neill, <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>	Reading Quiz
	Feb 29	Eugene O'Neill, <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>	
10	Mar 5	Cather, <i>The Professor's House</i>	Reading Quiz
	Mar 7	Cather, <i>The Professor's House</i>	
11	Mar 12	Robert Lowell, "Skunk Hour"	
	Mar 14	Robert Lowell, "For the Union Dead"	Essay # 3
12	Mar 19	Elizabeth Bishop, "The Fish," "In the Waiting Room"	
	Mar 21	Elizabeth Bishop, "Sestina," "At the Fishhouses"	
13	Mar 26	David Mamet, "Glengarry Glen Ross"	
	Mar 28	David Mamet, "Glengarry Glen Ross"	Exam Question Assign.
14	Apr 2	Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	Reading Quiz
	Apr 4	Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	

Evaluation

Term One

Essay # 1 (1500 words, Oct 31)	10%
Essay # 2 (2,500 words, Dec 5)	20%
Tutorial participation	5%
Exam, 2 hours	15%

Term Two

Third Essay (2500 words, Mar 14)	20%
Five reading quizzes	10%
Tutorial	5%
Final Exam, two hours	15%
Examination Question Exercise (March 28)	5% Bonus

Notices

Important Note 1: In the event of class cancellations, students will be notified on Avenue and the English Department Website. It is your responsibility to check these sites regularly for any such announcements.

Link: <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~english/> (Department)

Link: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/> (avenue to learn)

Important Note 2: Tutorials Participation: Tutorials start one week after classes begin. Students are expected to attend every tutorial and to be prepared to discuss the material weekly.

Important Note 3: Email Policy

It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Important Note 4: The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes

Late Assignment Policy:

Written assignments are due at the beginning of lecture on the date indicated. Unauthorized late papers are penalized three percentage grades per day. Graders reserve the right to omit commentary on late papers.

Grading Scale

Since September 1982, the grading scale has been:

Grade	Equivalent Grade Point	Equivalent Percentages
A+	12	90-100
A	11	85-89
A-	10	80-84
B+	9	77-79
B	8	73-76
B-	7	70-72
C+	6	67-69
C	5	63-66
C-	4	60-62
D+	3	57-59
D	2	53-56
D-	1	50-52
F	0	0-49 -- Failure

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work. (Receiving a group grade for a presentation without having done an equal amount of work on the project.)
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Students will be asked to fill out a online course evaluation upon completion of the course.