



Graduate Course Syllabus

LIT 512: Graduate Studies in Early American Literature

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

While the authors and texts studied in the course may vary, the readings will cover the historical period from 1620, with the settlement of Plymouth Plantation, through the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and the early days of the new Republic. Although there may be some attention to the literature of early discovery, the emphasis will be on literary texts of major historical interest and on authors who pursued the American Dream of economic, religious, political and artistic freedom.

Course Outcomes

- Evaluate and synthesize various critical arguments and incorporate these arguments into an original interpretation of a literary text(s)
- Demonstrate expertise in a literary subject and articulate new potential connections between language/literature and social and cultural history
- Articulate several theoretical approaches to literature and apply both theory and form to primary texts for purposes of an informed, original interpretation that contributes to the field of study
- Compose an essay of significant depth that involves researching a variety of literary sources, evaluating sources, and integrating pertinent research into a scholarly paper with an extended, cohesive, and original literary argument that contributes to the field of study
- Produce scholarship that adds to others' aesthetic appreciation for literature and articulates the critical role it plays in culture and society

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume A

Nina Baym, Editor W. W. Norton

9th Edition

2017

ISBN: 978-0-393-93571-4

Letters From an American Farmer

J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur

Oxford University Press

Oxford World's Classics Edition

2009

ISBN: 978-0-19-955474-4

Wieland and Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist

Charles Brockden Brown

Penguin Random House LLC

1991

ISBN: 978-0-14-039079-7

The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings: Revised Edition

Olaudah Equiano

Penguin

2003

ISBN: 978-0-14-243716-2

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment’s due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	10	25	250
Journals	6	25	150
Short Papers	3	60	180
Review of a Critical Work	1	70	70
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	70	70
Milestone Two	1	70	70
Milestone Three	1	200	200
Topic Proposal	1	10	10
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	<p>Origin Myths: Plymouth and Virginia</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: Introduction, John Smith, William Bradford, Thomas Morton, John Winthrop, and Samuel Sewell</p> <p>1-1 Discussion: Origin Myths: Plymouth and Virginia</p> <p>1-2 Final Project Review</p> <p>1-3 Short Paper</p>
2	<p>Native Voices and Silence</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: “Stories of the Beginning of the World,” “Trickster Tales,” Mary Rowlandson: “A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson,” “Native American Eloquence: Negotiation and Resistance” and Samuel Occom “A Short Narrative of My Life.”</p> <p>2-1 Discussion: Native Voices and Silence</p> <p>2-2 Short Paper</p> <p>2-3 Journal: Resource Search</p>
3	<p>The Developing Role of Religion in Colonial America</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: Roger Williams, Michael Wigglesworth, Edward Taylor, Cotton Mather, and Jonathan Edwards</p> <p>3-1 Discussion: Religion in Colonial America</p> <p>3-2 Journal: Topic and Audience</p> <p>3-3 Topic Proposal</p>
4	<p>Words as Revolution</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: John and Abigail Adams, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, and The Federalist</p> <p>4-1 Discussion: Words as Revolution</p> <p>4-2 Final Project Milestone One: Annotated Bibliography</p> <p>4-3 Journal: Resource Evaluation</p>
5	<p>Inventing an American</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: Benjamin Franklin and his works, including the complete <i>Autobiography</i></p> <p>5-1 Discussion: <i>Autobiography</i></p> <p>5-2 Review of a Recent Critical Work</p>
6	<p>The Emergence of the Literary</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: Sarah Kemble Knight, William Byrd, John Woolman, Philip Freneau, and Royall Tyler</p> <p>6-1 Discussion: “The Contrast”</p> <p>6-2 Journal: First Draft</p> <p>6-3 Final Project Milestone Two: Abstract and Outline</p>
7	<p>Women’s Voices</p> <p>Reading: <i>Norton Anthology</i>: Anne Bradstreet, Phillis Wheatley, Judith Sargent Murray</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: Women’s Voices</p> <p>7-2 Short Paper</p>

Module	Topics and Assignments
8	Speaking America to Europe Reading: <i>Letters From an American Farmer</i> 8-1 Discussion: <i>Letters From an American Farmer</i> 8-2 Journal: Revision
9	The Slave's Voice Reading: <i>The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings</i> 9-1 Discussion: An Identity in the Making 9-2 Journal: Opening Paragraphs of Research Paper
10	The Early American Novel Reading: <i>Wieland and Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist</i> 10-1 Discussion: <i>Wieland</i> 10-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Research Paper

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).