

## *Extensive reading - Lecture 6 (Pr. Handour)*

### *Young Goodman Brown analysis*

#### *Theoretical background:*

*... Making illusion to “Young Goodman Brown” and the set of earlier stories, he noted: “These stories were published... without making... the slightest impression on the public”. Over the years praise from the literary lights of his time did nothing to shake his modesty. Hawthorne declared that he was sometimes at a loss to what his tales mean. In 1854 he wrote to a friend: “Upon my honour, I am not quite sure that I entirely comprehend my own meaning in some of these blasted allegories, but I remember that I always had a meaning, or at least thought I had.*

*Today Hawthorne continues to be universally praised as the godfather of American literature. His work **withstands** (resists to) the test of time and is still popular. Renowned contemporary writer Stephen King wrote his horror story “the Man in the Black Suit” to pay homage to “Young Goodman Brown”, one of his favourite tales. He described Hawthorne piece as one of the ten best stories ever written by an American.*

*In 1837, Hawthorne published his first collection of stories “Twice Told Tales”, which bestow some fame on him as a writer. Though he relished fleeting (short-lived) moments of success **in the wake** (after) of publishing his stories, he hardly made a living out of them. As a result, he spent one year working in the Boston Custom House, weighing salt and coal. 1842 marked his marriage to Sophia Peabody; the couple had three children. They rented the Old Manse in Concord, Massachusetts the stronghold of the transcendentalist movement presided by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Bronson Alcott.*

*In 1846, Hawthorne reunited with Salem, where he was appointed surveyor of the Custom House. After being released from duty due to a change in power, he quickly wrote “The Scarlet Letter” (1850) in which the female protagonist (Hester Prynne) is disgraced and stigmatised for having committed adultery.*