

OXFORD COLLEGE *of Emory University*

COURSE OUTLINE

English 250 - Survey of American Literature: Beginnings to 1865

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Spring 2003 Semester

I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, objective tests, two critical essays (5 printed pages), a mid-term examination, and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To identify and examine the major themes and styles characteristic of the Colonial, Early National, Romantic and Transcendentalist periods of American literature.
- B. To recognize and define the various literary-historical backgrounds against which American literature of these periods appears.
- C. To trace the early development of a uniquely "American" literature.
- D. To establish and explore the timeless concerns of the literature to be read in the course and how those concerns speak directly to the contemporary reader.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief quizzes which will precede the discussion of assigned literary works. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Two critical essays (5 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- D. Midterm examination composed of factual and essay questions devoted to the literature covered in the first half of the course.
- E. A comprehensive final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- F. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

III. Attendance Policy

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

IV. Grading Practices

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

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| Class participation | 5% |
| Quizzes and in-class writing | 15% |
| Two formal essays | 40% |
| Midterm exam | 15% |
| Final exam | 25% |

V. Textbook

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 5th ed., Volume 1.

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

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|----------------|--|
| January 15-17 | Introductory |
| January 20-24 | Bradford, Morton, Winthrop |
| January 27-31 | Bradstreet, Mather, Edwards |
| February 3-7 | Franklin, Crèvecoeur, Paine |
| February 10-14 | Jefferson, <u>Federalist</u> , Wheatley |
| February 17-21 | Irving, Cooper, Bryant, <u>First Essay Due</u> |
| February 24-28 | Poe |
| March 3-5 | Poe <u>Mid-term Examination</u> |
| March 10-14 | Spring Break |

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| March 17-21 | Emerson |
| March 24-28 | Thoreau, Fuller |
| March 31-April 4 | Hawthorne |
| April 7-11 | Melville |
| April 14-18 | Whitman <u>2nd Essay Due</u> |
| April 21-25 | Douglass |
| April 28 | Last Class |
| May 1 2-5 PM | <u>Final Examination</u> |

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are:

Monday - Friday: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what **plagiarism** is.