

**OXFORD COLLEGE** *of Emory University*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 250 - Survey of American Literature: Beginnings to 1865**

Dr. Lucas Carpenter  
Spring 2008 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:

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, Volumes A & B.

### VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

January 16-18	Introductory
January 21-25	Bradford, Morton, Winthrop
January 28-February 1	Bradstreet, Mather, Edwards
February 4-8	Franklin, Crèvecoeur, Paine
February 11-15	Jefferson, <u>Federalist</u> , Wheatley
February 18-22	Irving, Cooper, Bryant <b><u>First Essay Due</u></b>
February 25-March 1	Poe
March 3-7	Poe <b><u>Mid-term Examination</u></b>
March 10-14	Spring Break

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

**VII. Office Hours**

My office is located in Seney Hall, Room 115B, The Thinkery, and my office hours are:

Monday - Friday: 2:00 - 3:00 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.