

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College
Engl 4306 American Literature to 1865
Fall 2019

Dr. Audrey Taylor Audrey.taylor@sulross.edu

Office: Sul Ross RGC Eagle Pass Site; Room B106

Phone: 830-758-5018

Office Hours: M 2-5, T 3:30-4:30, W 12-2, Th. 2-6, and by appointment

Course Description

A critical study of the American literature written from Colonial times through the Civil War.

Course Outcomes

After taking it, students should be able to:

1. recognize styles of each period and author
2. discuss major ideas and works
3. respond to literature actively and constructively: decide what you think
4. understand how literary devices help set the tone of a piece and convey emotional meaning
5. understand how history affects form.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Student Learning Outcome #1 – Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate coherence, development, organization, and appropriate/effective grammar, usage, and mechanics.
2. Student Learning Outcome #2 – Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.
3. Student Learning Outcome #3 – Students will be able to produce researched documents that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of credible sources, employ them effectively through quotations and paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer’s own prose, and document them correctly using the style appropriate to the document.

Required Book

The Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Volume One Beginnings to 1865
Susan Belasco, Linck Johnson, ISBN-10: 0-312-67868-1; ISBN-13: 978-0-312-67868-5

Grade Determination

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Quizzes/Class Participation	In-Class	200
Weekly Question	Each Tuesday	200
Midterm Exam	10/1/19	200
Paper/Project	11/12/19	200
Cumulative Final Exam	12/10/19	200

Grading

A: 900 – 1000

B: 800 – 890

C: 700– 790

D: 600 – 690

F: 0 – 590

Assignments

Quizzes

These will check reading comprehension with simple questions about the assigned reading. They will be given randomly, in writing or orally, during class time.

Weekly Question due Tuesday

Post question to appropriate Question link in Blackboard and print out copy for class (or have it ready on your phone/tablet/etc.). Bring your question Wednesday and be prepared to present your question then.

Each week you will bring one discussion question for class. These discussion questions will need to be more than a yes or no, or basic plot points, but instead should spark in-class discussions. Discussion questions should be accompanied by a relevant quote from the text. You do not need to answer the question, that is for your classmates to do.

Paper/Project

To be developed with students. May contain a creative component, must contain a written component.

Exams

Both the midterm and final exam will consist of short answer questions and essay questions. They will be in-class exams.

Attendance, etc. policy

I use a token system. You begin the course with three tokens. You may exchange a token for:

- early departure or late arrival from and to class (15+ minutes)
- an absence
- an extra 48 hours to complete a major assignment (except the final exam)
- one pass on a discussion question.

It is up to you how you use your tokens. If you use all your tokens you will be penalized for any further early departures/late arrivals/absences/late assignments/missed questions. If you have all three tokens left at the end of the course, and an A average (**including an A** in class participation), you may skip the final exam. If you have all three tokens but less than an A average, you will receive an extra five points on the final exam.

Late Papers/Assignments

To pass the class you must successfully complete and turn in to me each assignment by the due date. If you fail to turn in even one assignment, you may earn an F for the course.

Grade Changes

Please discuss your grades with me during the semester. There is no extra credit available once the class has finished, but to make up points you may re-do assignments within two weeks of their return. This does not apply to the final exam. Once the semester is over and I have entered grades into the system, however, I will not consider grade changes except where I have made a number miscalculation.

ADA Statement

SRSU Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator assists students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services and activities. The Disability Services Coordinator is the Director of Student Services 830-758-5006 in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Blackboard

This course requires numerous written assignments, all of which *must* be submitted to Blackboard by the published deadline. Please be prepared for electronic failures, last minute issues etc. These are *not* acceptable excuses for missing a deadline.

Teleconference Courses

I am teaching this course by teleconference in Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. I will not always be in the classroom that you are in which makes it difficult for you to speak with me before and after class. Please email me (see email address above) to make an appointment for us to meet or to have a phone conversation. My goal is your success! I welcome all requests for office, phone, or video conference appointments, and e-mailed questions.

Schedule (Subject to change!)

Week 1

(8/27): Introduction to course

Assignment: Native American readings 35-64, The Narrative 90-99, The General Histories 123-132, Pocohontas 135-6, Richard Frethorne 139-141

Week 2

(9/3)

Assignment: Anne Bradstreet 188-205, Cotton Mather Wonders 264-269, From Letter of Thomas 270-274, From the Diary 276-279, Edward's Narrative 334-345, Sinners in the Hands 346-358

Week 3

(9/10)

Assignment: Benjamin Franklin 402-420, Some Account 467-488, Letters from 540-543, Hannah Griffiths 547-8, Letter from Abigail 553-554, Draft of the Declaration 558-562

Week 4

(9/17)

Assignment: Phillis Wheatley 602-613, Washington Irving The Wife 626-631, James Fenimore Cooper The pioneers Ch. 1, 21

Week 5

(9/24)

Assignment: Prepare for Midterm

Week 6 Midterm

(10/1)

Assignment: Ralph Waldo Emerson Nature 781-803, The American Scholar 822-827, Henry David Thoreau 961-976

Week 7

(10/8)

Assignment: Harriet Beecher Stowe The Seamstress 904-910, A Parable 911-912, Harriet Jacobs Letter from a Fugitive 915-918, A Perilous 926-930

Week 8

(10/15)

Assignment: Frederick Douglas ch.1-8 (1016-1038), African American Slave Songs 1077-81

Week 9

(10/22)

Assignment: Nathaniel Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown" 11132-1122, Rappaccini's Daughter 1139-1160

Week 10

(10/29)

Assignment: Edgar Allen Poe "The Fall" 1173-1186, "The Purloined" 1190-1203, "The Raven" 1205-1208, "Anabelle Lee" 1208-1209

Week 11:

(11/5)

Assignment: Paper/ Projects

Week 12: Paper/ Project Due

(11/12): Presentation and Discussion

Assignment: Melville "The Paradise" 1254, 1370, Louisa May Alcott "The Brothers" 1333-1347

Week 13:

(11/19)

Assignment: Walt Whitman "Song of Myself" 1393-1439, 1439-1441, Emily Dickinson "Safe in their Alabaster Chambers" (both versions 1475) "My Life" 1493 "The poets" 1494, Oliver Wendell Holmes "The Chambered" 1376-1377, Elizabeth Oakes Smith 1363-65

Reading Week (Catch up or get ahead!)

Week 14:

(12/3)

Assignment: Prepare for Final Exam if taking it

If not, a short response to the reading (John Greenleaf Whittier "The Hunters" 1371-2) is due on Blackboard.

Week 15:

(12/10): Final Exam 6-9 p.m.