

The American Renaissance

Online

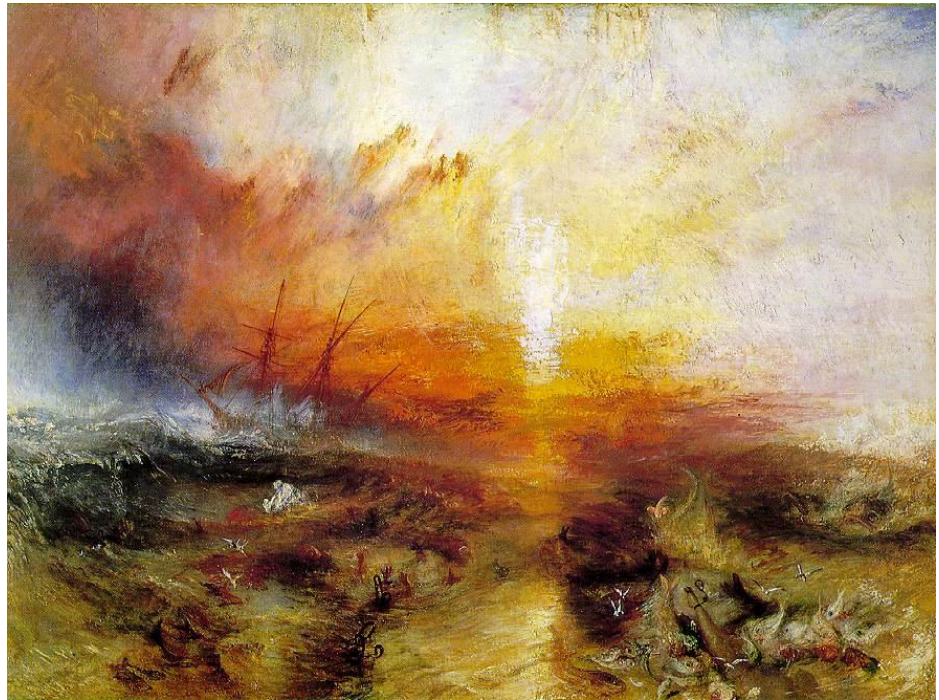
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M-Th 3-4 pm



JMW Turner. "The Slave Ship," originally titled Slavers Throwing overboard the Dead and Dying—Typhoon coming on," 1840. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Texts

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. Edited by Sandra Morris and Joel Porte. 1st Ed. Norton Critical Edition, 2001. (ISBN: 978-0-393-96792-0; <https://wnorton.com/books/9780393967920/about-the-book/product-details>)

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Nathaniel Hawthorne's Tales*. Edited by James McIntosh. Norton Critical Edition, 2012. (ISBN: 978-0-393-93564-6; <https://wnorton.com/books/9780393935646/about-the-book/description>)

Irving, Washington. *The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon*. Ed. Susan Manning. Oxford: Oxford World's Classics, 2009. (ISBN: 9780199555819; <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-sketch-book-of-geoffrey-crayon-gent-9780199555819?q=Irving&lang=en&cc=us>)

Ridge, John Rollin (Yellow Bird). *Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta: Celebrated California Bandit*. (The Western Frontier Library Series) Revised ed. Edition The Western Frontier Library Series (Book 4) Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977. (ISBN: 978-0-8061-1429-3; <https://www.oupres.com/books/9781202/life-and-adventures-of-joaquin-murieta>)

Poe, Edgar Allan. *Selected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe*. Edited by G.R. Thompson. Norton Critical Edition. 2004. (ISBN: 978-0-393-97285-6; <https://wnorton.com/books/9780393972856>)

Poetry of Phoebe Cary, Emily Dickinson, Helen Hunt Jackson and Walt Whitman available through the Poetry Foundation website: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

Course Description

In 1941 the scholar F.O. Matthiessen coined the term “the American Renaissance” to describe a brief period from 1850-55, which forged a national literary identity and was remarkable for the production of masterpieces, like *Moby Dick*, *Leaves of Grass*, and *Walden*. More recent scholarship has expanded the era to include earlier authors, like Washington Irving, and minorities authors, like the Cherokee author of the borderlands John Rollin Ridge, women poets like Dickinson and Phoebe Cary, and the African-American writer and orator Frederick Douglas. Their philosophy drew on transcendentalism, utopian reform, and abolitionism. Their style could involve sentimentalism, romantic irony, realism, the Arabesque and the Gothic. These authors continue to resonate through the works of contemporary authors: nature writers emulate Thoreau; novelists follow Melville; feminists connect with Fuller; and poets try to capture the voice of Whitman.

Objectives for 5307

Students will be able to

1. Develop an awareness of the literary tradition of American Transcendentalism.
2. Apply the philosophical lenses of Transcendentalism and the aesthetics of American Romanticism to understand problems related to education, race, class, sexism, and the environment.
3. Use literature as a means of critically understanding our society.
4. Acquire a knowledge of the critical tradition and apply techniques of literary research and criticism to write about writing.

Graduate Program in English Learning Outcomes

ENGLISH (GRADUATE)

Graduate students will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of major authors, literary works in different genres, and definitive literary movements in British and American literature
2. Explicate literary works representative of two periods or genres in British literature and two periods or genres in American literature
3. Employ methodology and terminology used in creative writing or linguistics
4. Conduct substantial research to support original interpretations of literary works, provide original applications of literary or linguistic theories, or present literature reviews of authors or genres that have inspired creative writing projects

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students'

identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Projects

I. Response Papers (500 points)

I will expect a total of 10 response papers, which will be posted to the course's Blackboard Discussion Board. The length of each post should be from 300-500 words, which could be two to four paragraphs. Although summarizing is one step in analysis, focus on raising questions, interpreting, and responding critically. To develop your ideas, use quotes. Another good strategy is referring to other literature you know: inter-textual reading—intertextual reading. Response papers are less formal, but they still require some care and art. A response paper is an *essay* in the original sense—a try. Please also give some feedback to other students' posts. Ideas are really build through dialog. Response papers will mainly be critical interpretations of an aspect of our readings. In the latter half of the class, they can also reflect on your research and writing process for the term paper.

II. Term Paper (500 points)

The term paper can focus on one aspect of one work of literature or compare two works of literature. Share your statement of class for a Discussion Board post and send it to me by email so that I can respond quickly to it. We will share ideas for papers and help each other through the research process.

Course Grade Breakdown

Projects	Due Date	%	Points
Posts to the Class Reading Blog (10 in number)	About once a week with some breaks	50	500
Term Paper 10-15 pages in length	December 4	50	500
Total Points Available		100	1000

Blackboard

If you confront technical issues which interfere with your ability to use Blackboard, contact the LTAC (Lobo Technology Assistance Center) at 432-837-8888 or <https://techassist.sulross.edu>

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Sul Ross State University provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, as soon as possible please contact Counseling and Accessibility Services:

Mary Schwartze, M.Ed., LPC
 Accessibility Services Coordinator
 Counseling & Accessibility Services
 Ferguson Hall, Rm #112
 P.O. Box C-122
 Alpine, TX. 79832
mschwartze@sulross.edu

The Learning Center (TLC)

The Learning Center is located in the first floor of the library. Tutors are available to help you with any problems you may have with an assignment. Take advantage of this service any time you need help.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Dishonest acts, such as plagiarism (using words or a specific author's ideas from another source without acknowledging the source) or collusion (having other people write parts of your paper for you), may result in an "F" on the assignment and may lead to a disciplinary hearing conducted through the office of the Dean of Students, which could result in suspension or expulsion from SRSU. If you have questions about whether your use of other sources (such as books, websites, friends, or Writing Center tutors) is fair or not, please ask before turning in the work that you have a question about.

Course Calendar

Dates	Topics	Readings	Project Due Dates and Notes
Week One			
8.26	Introduce syllabus	Irving 11-99 "The Author's Account of Himself" through "The Widow and Her Son."	
Week Two			
9.2	The picturesque	Irving 100 – 120 "A Sunday in London" and "The Mutability of Literature." Irving 240 – 265 Native American essays.	
Week Three			
9.9	German Irony The Arabesque	Poe ["Alone"] through "Annabel Lee" 46-76	Response Paper 1: Irving

			September 11: Last day to drop a 16 week term course without creating an academic record
Week Four			
9.16	Dark Romanticism	Poe (the artist and psychologist) "Ligeia" 159 "The Fall of the House of Usher" 199 "The Pit and the Pendulum" "The Tell-Tale Heart"	Response Paper 2: Poe's Poetry
Week Five			
9.23	Hoaxing Grotesque	Poe (the detective and hoaxer) "The Purloined Letter" 367 "The Murders of the Rue Morgue" 239 "The Gold-Bug" "The Cask of Amontillado"	
Week Six			
9.30	"American Scholar" "Divinity School Address" "The Transcendentalist"	Ralph Waldo Emerson Emerson's Poetry	Response Paper 3: Poe's Prose
Week Seven			
10.7	"Self-Reliance" "The Over-soul" "Circles"	Ralph Waldo Emerson	Response Paper 4: Emerson's poetry
Week Eight <i>Midterm</i>			
10.14	Transcendentalism	Ralph Waldo Emerson	
Week Nine			
10.21	The Western	John Rollin Ridge	Response Paper 5: Emerson's Essays
Week Ten			
10.28	Native American Literature	John Rollin Ridge	
Week Eleven			
11.4	"My Kinsman, Major Molineax" "Young Goodman Brown" "The Minister's Black Veil"	Nathaniel Hawthorne	Response Paper 6: Juakin Murieta

Week Twelve			
11.11	“The Birthmark” “The Artist of the Beautiful” “Rappaccinin’s Daughter”	Nathaniel Hawthorne	November 12: Instructor initiated drop for excessive absences Response Paper 7: Your Term Paper Statement of Purpose
Week Thirteen			
11.18		Emily Dickinson	Response Paper 8: Hawthorne’s Tales
Week Fourteen			
11.25	Thanksgiving 11.27-29	Emily Dickinson Helen Hunt Jackson	11.25 Last day for students to drop class with a W Response Paper 9: A useful scholarly source for your term paper
Week Fifteen			
12.2 12.4 Last Day of Class 12.5 Dead Day	Democratic writing	Walt Whitman Phoebe Cary	Response Paper 10: The poets Due 12.4 Term Paper 10-15 pages, grounded in theory and criticism
Week Sixteen			
No Final Exam 12.12 Grades for graduating students submitted to registrar 12.16 Grades submitted for all other students			