

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

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Office Hours: T/W/TH 9-11 am, 5-5:45 pm and by appointment
The best way to reach me is via e-mail!
Class: 6-8:45 T

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 Texts

Texts will be open access (<https://viva.pressbooks.pub/amlit1/>) *American Literature 1: Anthology of Texts From Early America Through the Civil War* ed. by Jenifer Kurtz , or provided as links in the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to read, print this free material, and have it on hand for class discussion.

Grade Determination

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Quizzes/Class Participation	In-Class	200
Weekly Question	Each Tuesday	200
Midterm Exam	9/28	200
Paper/Project	11/9	200
Cumulative Final Exam	12/7	200

Grading

A: 900 – 1000

B: 800 – 899

C: 700– 799

D: 600 – 699

F: 0 – 599

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 Tuesday 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 (10+ 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 Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. RGC students seeking accessibility services should contact Paulette Harris, Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Dean, at 830-279-3023 or email pharris@sulross.edu. Ms. Harris's office is at 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, TX 78801 (this is the mailing address, too).

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

(8/24): Introduction to course

Literature of Exploration and Discovery

Assignment: Native American (2 and 4), Letter of Discovery (8), From the Relation (10), Letter to (20)

Week 2

(8/31) Literature of Colonial America

Assignment: Anne Bradstreet (32, 34, 37), Mary Rowlandson (39), Cotton Mather (44), Edward Taylor (52), Sinners in the Hands (55)

Week 3

(9/7) Non-fiction of the Revolutionary Period

Assignment: The Declaration of Independence

(<https://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/compare.html>)

Thomas Paine (66), John and Abigail Adams (69), Benjamin Franklin (74), Hector St. Etc. (78)

Week 4

(9/14) Fiction and Poetry of the Revolutionary Period

Assignment: Phillis Wheatley (59, 60, 63), Washington Irving *The Wife*

(<http://www.telelib.com/authors/I/IrvingWashington/prose/geoffreycrayon/wife.html>) James Fenimore Cooper *The Pioneers* Ch. 1, 21 (<https://www.online-literature.com/cooperj/pioneers/1/>)

Week 5

(9/21) Literature of the New Nation

Assignment: Prepare for Midterm

Week 6 Midterm

(9/28)

Assignment: Ralph Waldo Emerson (110, 112), Henry David Thoreau (117, 118)

Week 7

(10/5) Romantic Era

Assignment: Harriet Beecher Stowe (121), Harriet Jacobs

(<https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/jacobs/support16.html>) and choose two chapters

(<https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/jacobs/jacobs.html>)

Week 8

(10/12) Nineteenth Century Reform

Assignment: Sojourner Truth (<https://www.thesojournertruthproject.com/compare-the-speeches>) Frederick Douglas (<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/what-to->

the-slave-is-the-fourth-of-july/) African American Slave Songs
(<https://blackexcellence.com/black-gospel-songs/>), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (159)

Week 9

(10/19) American Romanticism

Assignment: Nathaniel Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown" (125), Rappaccini's Daughter (128)

Week 10

(10/26) American Romanticism

Assignment: Edgar Allan Poe "The Fall" (131), "The Purloined" (134), "The Raven" (137)
"Anabelle Lee" (138)

Week 11:

(11/2) Romantic Era cont.d

Assignment: Paper/ Projects, Lydia Sigourney (152, 153)

Week 12: Paper/ Project Due

(11/9): Presentation and Discussion

Assignment: Melville "The Paradise" (143), Louisa May Alcott "The Brothers" (172)

Week 13:

(11/16) Civil War Era

Assignment: Walt Whitman (176, 177, 179, 181, 182), Emily Dickinson (195, 196, 197)

Week 14:

11/23: Oliver Wendell Holmes (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44379/the-chambered-nautilus>), Fanny Fern (163), Rebecca Harding Davis (170)

Week 15:

11/30 Study Week

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 16:

(12/7): Final Exam 6-9 p.m.