

English 241

Timothy Sweet, ENGL 241, Fall 2004, American Literature

Dr. Sweet

Office: 222 Stansbury Hours: TR 9:00 - 10:00 and by appointment

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Overview

American literature from its beginnings to the mid-19th century is a vast and diverse body of material. This course does not attempt a comprehensive survey of that material, but rather focuses on three topics of perennial importance, working more or less chronologically through each one:

First Nations—European colonizers= interactions with indigenous Americans;

Nature—colonizers= interactions with the physical environment;

Liberty and Authority—interactions within the social order(s) established by the colonizers.

The goal for the course is for you to understand the historical development of these topics as manifested in the literature. You will demonstrate this understanding in quizzes and exams.

Text

Nina Baym, general editor, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 6th edition, Volumes A (to 1820) and B (1820-1865). These are in separate bindings but are packaged together.

Grading

Daily Quizzes = 25% of final grade

Most days there will be a quiz on the assigned reading. These quizzes may not be made up if you are absent. However, in computing your final grade I will drop your three lowest scores.

First Exam = 25% of final grade

Second Exam = 25% of final grade

Third Exam = 25% of final grade

These in-class exams will consist of several short answer questions and two or three essay questions. You will need to supply your own blue books. For each exam you may bring in one standard (8 1/2 x 11) sheet of paper on which you have copied key quotations from the assigned primary readings only. This sheet may not have anything from the headnotes supplied by the textbook editors or any other materials beyond the primary readings. You must turn in this sheet along with your blue books. You may not refer to your text book or to any other book or materials during the exams.

Schedule

8/24 T Course introduction

First Nations

8/26 R Stories of the Beginning, A.19-33

8/31 T Trickster Tales, A.120-56

9/2 R Harriot, A.80-86 Smith, *General History*, A.103-14 Champlain, A.86-103

9/7 T Bradford, A.156-96

9/9 R Morton, A.196-204 Williams, *Key*, A.226-34

9/14 T Rowlandson, A.308-40

9/16 R Occom, A.645-52; Apess, B.1079-84

9/21 T Bryant, *APrairies*,@ B.1071-72, 1075-78 Cherokee Memorials, B.1029-39

9/23 R *First Exam*

Nature

9/28 T Smith, *Description of NE*, A.114-17 Van der Donck, A.285-92 Byrd, *History*, A.447, 453-64

9/30 R Bradstreet, *AContemplations*,@ A.238, 253-59 Taylor, *AUpon a Wasp*,@ A.341, 359
Edwards, *ABeauty of the World*,@ *Images or Shadows*, A.464-66, 509-14

10/5 T Paine, *Age of Reason*, A.704-05, 718-24 Jefferson, *Notes on Va.*, A.725-26, 733-38
Freneau, *Religion of Nature*,@ A.791-92, 805-06 10/7 R Emerson, *Nature*, B.1103-34

10/12 T Emerson, cont'd. Bryant, *Thanatopsis*,@ B.1072-74

10/14 R Whitman, *Out of the Cradle*,@ *As I Ebb=d*,@ *Live Oak*,@ B.2127-31, 2212-18,
2201-05

10/19 T Cooper, B.1013-29 Kirkland, B.1085-93

10/21 R Thoreau, *Walking*@ B.1788-92, 1993-2016

10/26 T *Second Exam*

10/28 R reading day—class cancelled

11/2 T election day recess

Liberty and Authority

11/4 R Winthrop, A.205-26 Bradstreet, poems A.239-51

11/9 T Wheatley, A.808-25 Longfellow, "The Slave's Dream," B.1480-81

11/11 R Crèvecoeur, A.657-82 Jefferson, *Declaration*, A.726-32

11/16 T Irving, *Rip Van Winkle*,@ B.978-92 Hawthorne, *Amy Kinsman*, B.1247-63

11/18 R Sedgwick, *Cacoethes Scribendi*,@ B.1039-50 Fern, B.1746-57

11/23, 11/25 Thanksgiving recess

11/30 T Douglass, *Narrative*, B.2029-97

12/2 R D, *Narrative* cont'd.

12/7 T Douglass, *My Bondage*, B.2097-2108

12/9 R Stowe, B.1670-1746

Third Exam: Tuesday, December 14, 11:00 to 1:00 in the regular classroom (105 White)