

ENGL346: American Literature 1800-1865

Dr. Michael Germana

Fall 2021

11:30-12:20 MWF

What does the Panic of 1819 have to do with Washington Irving's story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"?

How are beet farming, Maine joining the Union, and the anti-slavery writing of Lydia Maria Child all interrelated?

Why does Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" appear in *Godey's Ladies' Book*?

How has Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* continued to inspire literary authors and conceptual artists in the Twenty-First Century?

Why did Walt Whitman anonymously review his own book *Leaves of Grass* in the *United States Democratic Review* (and why did he do such a poor job of masking his identity)?

Learn the answers to these questions, pose your own queries to research independently, and spend a semester reading and writing about antebellum American literature. Enroll in ENGL346!

As befits a 300-level course, the writing and revising processes constitute a significant portion of the overall work for this class. Over the course of the semester, enrollees will independently research, write, and revise four Research Reports based on primary as well as secondary research, and craft a substantial research paper of 10-15 pages.

Final grades will be primarily determined by portfolio. The portfolio submitted at the end of the semester will contain revised copies of the four Research Reports and the final draft of the course-culminating research paper.