

ENGL 241
Fall 2022
2:30-3:45
Clark 320

Dr. Cari M. Carpenter
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Office Hours: W 12:30-2:30
(and by appointment)
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Office Hours Via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/92095171825?pwd=VFFneW1sTkZCNkp6aDIJUUVITWZqQT09>

Meeting ID: 920 9517 1825
Passcode: WbGiF2

American Literature I (Beginnings to 1865)

“Perhaps American literature can best be described not as the literature that continually tested itself until it found a voice against the literature of England but as the literature that was multi-vocal from the start. And perhaps its key resides not in any particular interpretation of world events so much as in the necessity of the artist-creator to formulate and thus form experience amidst a multitude of possibilities.”

-Introduction to Heath Anthology of American Literature (Volume 1, 2nd edition)

This survey of early American literature considers the relationship between multi-vocal texts and the nation with which they are associated. We will approach this literature through a number of questions: who, for instance, has historically counted as “American”? How do these texts engage with enduring themes of wilderness and civilization, freedom and slavery? Why are certain texts designated as canonical American literature while others are overlooked? By pairing conventional texts with those that are lesser known, we will consider the “multitude of possibilities” that exist within American literature. Throughout the semester, we will engage in lively class discussions that challenge and broaden our perceptions of the early literature of what we now know as the United States.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the quarter, I hope you will demonstrate:

- A heightened familiarity with the influential literature and history of this period;
- A sharpened ability to compare, contrast, and draw connections between literary texts;
- Enhanced close reading and writing skills.

COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS

The following texts are available at the WVU Bookstore:

- Heath Anthology of American Literature*, 7th ed., Volumes A and B (required)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (15% of final grade)

In addition to prompt and regular attendance, this includes the following:

- Your participation grade will be based in part on the thoughtfulness of your responses and your **overall engagement in our discussions and writing activities**. We don't often think of listening as an element of participation, but a productive learning environment is characterized by participants who respect others' words even if they don't agree with them. I welcome debate that is balanced with mutual respect. Note that respectful, engaged participation in class discussion may boost your final grade, while a lack of positive participation may lower it.

2. Weekly Response (20% of final grade). At least an hour before class (on a day of your choice that can vary), you will email me a one-page response to that day's readings. The responses will be evaluated on their engagement with the assigned material and related issues. I will use these responses to direct class discussion. Twelve of these will be due. This will begin the week of August 30.

Evaluation of responses:

*Your two lowest grades are dropped at the end of the semester.

*If you miss five or more responses, you will receive an "F" for this portion of the course.

3. Exam One (20% of final grade). This in-class exam will give you the opportunity to demonstrate close reading skills and facility with the assigned texts. It will include short answers and an essay.

4. Exam Two (20% of final grade). Out-of-class exam.

5. Final Exam (25% of final grade). The final exam will cover assigned texts and material since the midterm. It will include short answers and an essay.

Extra credit opportunity

I will post a page on eCampus for class notes. You will get extra credit if you place notes there within a day after any class. Please include your name and the date.

1-4 days of notes: 1 point of final grade

5-10 days of notes: 2 points of final grade

11-15 days of notes: 3 points of final grade

CLASS POLICIES

Covid: We are in the middle of a complex, rapidly-changing event that might require small or significant changes in the syllabus or class procedures. My first concern is of course health and safety, so I will defer to medical officials in making decisions about the class. If you (or a close friend or family member) happen to fall ill with Covid, be sure to notify your professors; we can then make a plan with you for classwork. Our classes will be synchronous. If you are not comfortable with this format, please replace this with

another class. **Please make sure I have the email address you check frequently and stay in constant contact with me throughout the semester.** We will get through this!

WVU Covid Statement

“Throughout the summer, we have closely monitored data related to COVID-19, including the highly infectious BA.5 Omicron subvariant,” said [Dr. Arif Sarwari](#), associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of infectious diseases in the [School of Medicine](#). “With so many individuals now using rapid home antigen testing for diagnosis, case counts have become a less reliable indicator of disease spread. However, we can say with confidence that we have not seen any sustained significant increase in severe outcomes associated with COVID-19 in West Virginia. Fatalities and cases requiring ventilator care have remained low and relatively stable throughout the summer. “We are using the tools and knowledge we've gained throughout the pandemic as our guide, and each of us is now in a better position to make individual decisions about how to protect ourselves and others,” Sarwari added.

WVU strongly encourages, but does not require, everyone to stay optimally protected against COVID-19 by getting their primary vaccine series and staying up-to-date with a booster dose if they are [eligible to receive one](#).

WVU will not require testing prior to attendance on campus; however, students and employees are encouraged to take advantage of self-antigen testing or community testing opportunities before and during the semester.

Any student living in a residence hall who tests positive for COVID-19 must notify WVU Shared Services via email at careservices@mail.wvu.edu or call [304-293-6006](tel:304-293-6006) to initiate a process to move the student into isolation housing provided at Lyon Tower. The University will provide access to transportation and meals for those in campus isolation. Residence hall students may also choose to isolate off campus.

Masks are not required on WVU campuses but are always welcome. The University will stock dispensers with disposable masks and hand sanitizer.

If a person contracts COVID-19, they must [isolate for 5 days and wear a mask for an additional 5 days](#) while in the classroom or other indoor spaces.

The University will continue to monitor public health data and re-evaluate campus guidelines, if necessary.

Updated WVU Attendance Policy: Students who are ill or quarantined (self-imposed or institutionally imposed) cannot be punished academically. This means that they cannot lose points. Students will be given the opportunity to make up any missed assignments or tests, although they may receive an alternative assignment. The major difference between sick and quarantined students is that we expect quarantined students to be working through their material online while they are in quarantine. Sick students will clearly have to make material up once they return to health.

If a student becomes ill (or injured or experiences any other unfortunate event that removes them from class for an extended period), they can use the **emergency leave policy** to work through the best possible resolution. It works similarly to the military leave policy. While it does not guarantee a particular outcome, it does provide the student a measure of protection. Documentation of some sort may be requested depending upon the resolution.

Punctual attendance is required. Tardiness or poor attendance will adversely affect your final grade (**more than five unexcused absences will result in a zero for attendance and participation (unless absence is due to quarantine, military service, or a recognized University event/holiday. See Covid policy above).** Please make every effort to arrive to class on time; important announcements will often be made in the first few minutes of class. Our conversations and writing assignments require your familiarity with these readings. If you don't come prepared, you do a disservice to yourself and to the other students. We don't often think of listening as an element of participation, but a productive learning environment is characterized by participants who respect others' words even if they don't agree with them.

Late work is not acceptable. Any assignment handed in after the class period in which it is due will be penalized for lateness (**reduced 1/2 letter grade each day it is late, including the day it is due**). If a personal emergency arises and you need an extension, speak to me as soon as possible about your situation. Please plan ahead for computer mishaps: always keep a back-up file of your work, and give yourself plenty of time to print.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Your classmates and instructor deserve your respect and support just as you deserve theirs.

Academic Integrity Statement

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University [Academic Standards Policy](http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification) (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification>). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Plagiarism, a form of theft, is prohibited. Plagiarism is defined as the submission of work that contains ideas not fully your own: ideas taken from publications, other students, your professors, the Internet, etc. Remember that you are required to cite a source if you include a direct quotation or if you borrow an idea and put it in your own words. If you have questions about the fine line between being influenced by a text or person and plagiarizing its/his/her ideas, cite the source. For a more detailed description of plagiarism, as well as the correct form for citation of sources, see a writing handbook or ask me. **The consequences of a proven case of plagiarism may result in an "F" in the course.**

Sexual Misconduct Statement

West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [[BOG Rule 1.6](#)]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the [Title IX Coordinator](#). (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/staff>)

If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the [Carruth Center](#), **304-293-9355** or **304-293-4431** (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the [Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center](#) (RDVIC), **304- 292-5100** or **304-292-4431** (24-hour hotline).

For more information, please consult [WVU's Title IX Office](#) (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/resources-offices>).

Mental Health

Mental health concerns or stressful events can adversely affect your academic performance and social relationships. WVU offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns that you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services (CCPPS) website: <https://carruth.wvu.edu/>

If you are in need of crisis services, call the CCPPS main number 24/7: (304) 293-4431.

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. In accordance with that commitment I maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. WVU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, disability, age, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestion as how to promote such a positive and open environment in this class is appreciated and given serious attention.

Inclusivity Statement

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on *open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion*. *If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with [the Office of Accessibility Services](#): (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>). More information is available at the [Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>). [adopted 2-11-2013]*

SCHEDULE

Each piece should be read by the date on which it is listed. Unless otherwise indicated, all readings can be found in the Heath Anthology (volume and page numbers are included below). You should also familiarize yourself with the biographical material that prefaces each assigned reading. This schedule is subject to change.

Beginnings: Contact

R Aug. 18 Introduction

Native American Oral Literatures

T Aug. 23 “Introduction: Native American Oral Literatures” (A 20-23); “The Origin of Stories” (Seneca) (A 59-62); “Creation of the Whites” (Yuchi) (A 77-78); Trickster stories (<http://arcadiasystems.org/academia/printtrickster.html>) Introduction-“The Great Spirit Names the Animal People”)

R Aug. 25 “Ritual Poetry, Song, and Ceremony” (A 84-86); “Deer Hunting Song” (Virsak Vai-i, O’odham) (A 94-95); “Moved” (Uvanuk, Igluik Inuit) (A 90)

Encounters

T Aug. 30 Columbus, excerpt from *Journal of the First Voyage to America, 1492-1493* (A 124-135); Handsome Lake, “How America Was Discovered” (A 893-895)

R Sept. 1 Bradford, excerpts from *Of Plymouth Plantation* (A 398-421); Morton, excerpt from *New English Canaan* (A 364-378)

T Sept. 6 Bradstreet, “The Prologue [To Her Book]” (A 439-441), “The Author to Her Book” (A 445); “The Flesh and the Spirit” (A 446-448)

R Sept. 8 Rowlandson, excerpt from *A Narrative of the Captivity...* (A 480-496)

T Sept. 13 Rowlandson, excerpt from *A Narrative of the Captivity...*(496-514)

R Sept. 15 Mather, excerpt from *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (A 555-560)

T Sept. 20 Introduction: Eighteenth Century” (A 613-631); Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (A 723-735)

R Sept. 22 EXAM ONE

T Sept. 27 Franklin, excerpt from *The Autobiography* (A 935-955; 983-998)

R Sept. 29 de Crèvecoeur, “What is an American?” (A 1007-1019)

Whose American Revolution?

T Oct. 4 “Cluster: On the Discourse of Liberty” (A 1149-1151); Paine, excerpt from *Common Sense* (A 1047-1053); Adams, “Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776” (A 1069)

R Oct. 6: Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence” (A 1158-1162); Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments” (B 2477-2479)

T Oct. 11 Grifitts, “The Female Patriots” (A 1155-1156); Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (A 1357), “A Farewell to America” (A 1357-1358), “To the University of Cambridge, in New England” (A 1359)

R Oct. 13 “Introduction: Native America” (B 1575-1577); Apess, “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man” (B 1797-1802); Boudinot, “An Address to the Whites” (B 2410-2418)

T Oct. 18 “Spanish Americas” (B 1672-1675); “Los tres hermanos” (B 1714-1718);
“Legend of La Llorona” (B 1673-1676)

R Oct. 20 NO CLASS

T Oct. 25 Thoreau, excerpt from *Walden* (B 1996-2034); **EXAM 2 DUE**

Soul, Spirit, and Nature: The Transcendentalists

R Oct. 27 Emerson, excerpt from “Nature” (Chapter I, Chapter III, Chapter VIII B 1826-1829; 1829-1833; 1850-1854)

T Nov. 1 Emerson, “Self-Reliance” (B 1868-1887)

R Nov. 3 Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (B 1943-1966)

T Nov. 8 NO CLASS (VOTING DAY)

Slavery and Self-Narratives

R Nov. 10 Douglass, excerpt from *Narrative of the Life...* (Chapters I-IX: B 2171-2199)

T Nov. 15 S.M. Grimké, “The Condition of Women in the United States” (B 2444-2448);
A. Grimké, “Human Rights Not Founded on Sex” (B 2452-2454); Fern, “Hints to Young
Wives” (B 2464-2465)

R Nov.17 Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Chapters I, VI, X: B 2340-2351)

Last Day to Drop a Class and Last Day to Withdraw from the University

Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 19-27)

The Romanticists

T Nov. 29 Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” (B 2621-2631); Irving, “Rip Van
Winkle” (B 2506-2519)

R Dec. 1 Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart” (B 2727-2731); “Ligeia” (2694-2706)

American Poetry

T Dec. 6 Whitman, “Preface to the First Edition of *Leaves of Grass*” (B 3222-3238)

R Dec. 8 Dickinson, “I Felt a Funeral, in my Brain” (B 3352); “A Bird came down the
Walk” (B 3355); “After great pain, a formal feeling comes” (B 3356); “Much Madness is
divinest Sense” (3358); “Because I could not stop for Death” (3368-3369)

Final Exam due to eCampus Friday, Dec. 16 by 10 a.m.