

English 241

ENGL 241, Timothy Sweet, Fall 2007

ENGL 241, American Literature, Beginnings to mid-19th Century

Section 2 Fall 2007 TR 8:30-9:45 48 Stansbury

Dr. Sweet

Office: 222 Stansbury

Hours: TR 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

Phone: 293-3107 x33417

email: tsweet@wvu.edu

Overview

American literature of this period is a vast and diverse body of material. This course does not attempt an exhaustive survey, but rather focuses on three topics of perennial importance:

Contact and Conflict—European colonizers' interactions with indigenous Americans;

Nature—colonizers' interactions with the physical environment;

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

Your goal for the course is to understand the historical development of each of these topics as manifested in the readings. You will demonstrate this understanding through quizzes and exams.

Text

Nina Baym, ed., *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 7th edition, Volumes A (Beginnings to 1820) and B (1820-1865).

Bring your book to class every day!

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 quiz 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 (8½ 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.

Policies

Absences. Please note that quizzes may not be made up if you are absent.

Incompletes. The grade of "Incomplete" is warranted only in extreme circumstances, and then only if a substantial portion of the semester's work has already been completed. If an emergency comes up, contact the Office of Student Life immediately (293-5611).

Social Justice. West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

Special needs. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

ENGL 241 Fall 07 Schedule

8/21 T Course introduction

8/23 R **Unit 1: Contact and Conflict** Stories of the Beginning A.17-31

8/28 T Trickster Tales A.72-103

8/30 R Harriot A.48-55; Smith, *General History* A.55-66

9/4 T Bradford A.104-38

9/6 R Williams, *A Key* A.173-84; Morton A.138-49

9/11 T Rowlandson A.235-67

9/13 R "Contact and Conflict" cluster A. 437-49; Franklin, "Remarks" A. 449-51, 468-72

9/18 T "Removal and Resistance" cluster B.1252-71

9/20 R **Exam on Unit 1**

9/25 T **Unit 2: Nature** Smith, *Descr of NE* A.66-69; Harriot (handout); Winthrop (handout)

9/27 R Bradstreet, "Contemplations" A.187-88, 195-202; Taylor, "Upon a Wasp" A.267-68, 284-85; Bleecker, "Immensity of Creation" A.721

10/2 T Paine, *Age of Reason* A.629-30, 643-49; Jefferson A.649-665

10/4 R Bryant, "Thanatopsis," "Sonnet" B.1044-48; Cooper B.985-1002

10/9 T Emerson, *Nature* B.1106-38

10/11 R Reading day – class does not meet

10/16 T Thoreau, "Economy" B.1853-57, 1872-1914

10/18 R Whitman, "Out of the Cradle," "As I Ebb'd" B.2190-95; 2267-74

10/23 T Dickinson B.2554-58 and poems TBA

10/25 R **Exam on Unit 2**

10/30 T **Unit 3: Liberty** Winthrop A.147-67

11/1 R Bradstreet, "Prologue," "In Honor of Q. Eliz.," "Before the Birth" A.188-93, 205-06; Sewall, "Selling of Joseph" A.288-89, 303-06

11/6 T Crèvecoeur A.595-616

11/8 R Adams and Adams, letters A.616-29; Murray, "On Equality" A.724-33

11/13 T Fern, newspaper columns B.1792-1803; Stoddard B.2525-38

11/15 R "Slavery, Race, and American Lit" cluster B.1682-98

Thanksgiving Break 11/19-23

11/27 T Douglass, *Narrative* B.2060-2129

11/29 R Douglass, *Narrative*

12/4 T Melville, "Benito Cereno" B. 2304-08, 2405-2461

12/6 R Douglass, *My Bondage* B.2129-40

Exam on Unit 3 Tuesday, December 11, 3:00 to 5:00 in the regular classroom (48 Stansbury)