



**ENGLISH 303, AMERICAN LITERATURE
2009 SPRING TRIMESTER**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lorie Fulton

OFFICE HOURS: W 10:00 to 1:00
TR 10:00-12:30
Other times by appointment

OFFICE TELEPHONE: 601.318.6430

E-MAIL: lfulton@wmcarey.edu ; lorie.fulton@c-gate.net (put class name and number in subject line)

CELL: 601.270.3647

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Loose leaf notebook

Portable storage device (jump drive, flash drive, junk drive, etc.)

On-campus access to materials on D2L

ATTENDANCE:

- Successful completion of this course requires regular and prompt attendance. The catalog states that students must attend 75% of the class meetings in order to receive credit for the course.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class.
- All absences are counted as such. All absences are unexcused including those classes missed for adding the course late and classes missed due to college-related trips.
- Three tardies/early departures will count as one absence.
- If a student does come in late, the student is responsible for giving the instructor a sheet of notebook paper with his/her name, the date, and a statement of tardiness.
- Getting up to leave temporarily or early is not acceptable except with prior permission before class or in an extreme emergency.
- **Excessive tardies, leaving in the middle of class, and absences will affect your grade.**

CLASS DEMEANOR:

- Avoid eating major meals during class
- Turn off cell phones (OFF, not vibrate).
- Avoid text messaging and conducting other private conversations during class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

ENG 303 is an interactive class; therefore, you have a responsibility not only to yourself, but also to the class members to be at all class meetings on time and prepared for the class. Your presence, punctuality, preparation, and participation are crucial to success in this class. Good participation--pertinent questions, constructive comments, observations, and contributions--enhances your grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

William Carey University seeks to create an environment that encourages continued growth of moral and ethical values, which include personal honesty and mutual trust. The University places the highest value on academic integrity and regards any act of academic dishonesty as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty is considered unethical and in violation of William Carey University's academic standards and Christian commitment. If such an incident occurs, students, faculty, and/or staff are obligated to initiate appropriate action. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense, sanctions could include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and could lead to suspension or dismissal from the University. A full explanation of the procedures for responding to instances of academic dishonesty is contained in the student handbook, *The Lance*.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and who require special accommodation should contact Ms. Brenda Waldrip at 601-318-6188. Ms. Waldrip's office is located in Student Services in Lawrence Hall.

DISASTER PLAN STATEMENT:

In the event of closure or cancellations due to natural disaster or other emergency causes, general information will be forwarded to local media, posted on the WCU website <http://wmcarey.edu>, and sent via automated process to your WCU student e-mail address. Specific information regarding the continuation of coursework will be posted on the university's course management system at <https://elearning.wmcarey.edu>. For up-to-the-minute alerts regarding emergency situations, sign up to receive notifications through *Sader Watch*, the WCU emergency text message service. Sign up instructions can be found under current students on the WCU homepage.

INCOMPLETES:

All of the following criteria must be met in order for a student to receive an incomplete:

- 80% of the required work for the class must have been done.
- The student must be passing the class at the time the incomplete is granted.
- The student must request the incomplete on the WCU incomplete request form prior to the time at which faculty must submit grades.
- The student must have provided appropriate documentation regarding the reason for requesting the incomplete (e.g., accident reports, medical records, etc.)
- The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Sciences must have determined that unavoidable circumstances have prevented the student from completing the course on schedule.

If any one of the above conditions is not met, a student cannot receive an incomplete for the course.

TEXTS:

- *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, volume I (shorter seventh edition). Ed. Nina Baym et al. ISBN-10: 0-393-93056-4, ISBN-13: 978-0-393-93056-6. 2007.
- On-campus access to supplementary materials placed on D2L

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will offer a chronologically-organized exploration of various forms of literary production in America before 1865. As we read and write about works by diverse American writers at diverse historical moments, we will explore such issues as the relationship between literature and politics, history, and social movements; how race, gender, and socio-economic class shape literary expression; and the distinctive features of American literature as it developed in the "New World."

Prerequisite: Eng 211 AND 212.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To successfully complete ENG 303, students are expected to fulfill the following:

- Apply strategies of close reading.
- Connect literary techniques to interpretation.
- Evaluate themes, issues, and theories.
- Assess relevance of specific texts to contemporary life.
- Explain historical and cultural contexts for particular works.
- Recognize characteristics of particular literary periods of early American literature.
- Understand various critical perspectives.
- Use expressive writing to learn course material.
- Develop analytical essays based on literature through a process approach of writing.

FINAL GRADING SCALE:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

--**two formal essays:** 1200-1400 word minimum. In these essays, you will be asked to make a specific, interpretive argument about one or two works of literature, and to offer textual evidence in support of your interpretation. **You will not be doing outside research for the first of these papers.** We will spend a good deal of time talking about expectations for these papers as the class progresses. I encourage you to come and speak to me about your papers at any stage in the composing process.

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates announced. If some extreme circumstance will prevent you from turning in a paper on time, we can usually work out a short extension, but **you must speak to me in advance of the due date.** Papers that come in late will be graded down a full letter grade for every 24-hour period they are overdue. Computer "crashes," printer glitches, etc., do NOT excuse late papers, nor does your absence from class. If you cannot attend class on the day a paper is due, ask a classmate or friend to turn in the paper for you. Please note that any student who plagiarizes--that is, who violates the boundaries of honest writing by presenting others' work as his or her own--will get a "zero" for the essay and may fail the entire course. Given available new technologies, plagiarism is very easy to detect and prove. Avoid it at all costs. (Paper #1, 20% of final grade; Paper #2, 20% of final grade)

--**two presentations:** students will be responsible for two group research presentations / class discussions that will count for 20% of the final grade. These presentations should last about ten minutes and include a BRIEF biographical sketch, summaries of the relevant critical materials on D2L, a visual aid that identifies major points (powerpoints, handouts, notes written on the board prior to class), something "extra" (we'll talk about what constitutes this), and at least three questions for discussion.

--**quizzes and participation:** throughout the semester, you will take frequent 10-point quizzes. Quizzes will take a variety of forms, with questions designed not only to test whether you've read, but also to stimulate class discussion and to give you practice for the sort of writing you will be doing at greater length in the final exam. Some quizzes will be announced, some unannounced; some will be in-class, some "take-home." You will be able to drop your lowest quiz score. Because of the drop score, I do not allow anyone to make up quizzes under any circumstances. As far as participation goes, excellent attendance is not enough: students who are consistently present but who rarely contribute to discussion will receive a "C" for participation. (20% of final grade)

--**final examination:** a comprehensive final exam involving closed book questions (short answers, identification/discussion of passages) and open book essay questions. (20% of final grade)

PREPARATION FOR CLASS

In addition to completing reading and writing assignments (including reading the authors' bios), preparing for class means being ready to discuss and intelligently question issues raised by the material. This does not mean, however, that you must *master* the material. On the contrary, it is perfectly reasonable that you may be confused by some readings the first time we encounter them. But in such cases you should be prepared to discuss what you specifically found puzzling, aggravating, thought-provoking, engaging or difficult about the assignment. In other words, if you feel you have nothing to *state* about a piece of writing, actively develop a list of *questions about it*.

SCHEDULE:**Week 1**

Tuesday 2/23

Thursday 2/25

Class organization; creation stories (17-21)

Beginnings to 1700 pp.1-14, Harriot's Brief and True Report 36-42, John Smith's General History pp.43-57

Week 2

Tuesday, 3/3

Thursday 3/5

Bradstreet's selected works pp. 106-114, Mary Rowland's Narrative pp. 118-34

American Literature 1700-1820 pp. 151-61, Native Americans: Contact and Conflict pp.206-218, Mather's Wonders of the Invisible World pp. 143-49

Week 3

Tuesday 3/10

Thursday 3/12

Crevecoeur's Letters 309-24, American Literature 1820-1865 pp.431-52

Irving's Rip Van Winkle pp. 453-66

Spring Break**Week 4**

Tuesday 3/24

Thursday 3/26

Emerson's The American Scholar and Self-Reliance pp.520-50

Writing a literary essay, Hawthorne's My Kinsman pp. 589-605

Week 5

Tuesday 3/31

Thursday 4/2

Hawthorne's Young Goodman Brown pp. 605-14, The Birth-Mark pp. 631-43

First paper due, The Scarlet Letter (film)

Week 6

Tuesday 4/7

Thursday, 4/9

Poe's "The Raven pp. 675-78, Fall of the House of Usher 689-701, Tell-Tale Heart pp.702-05

Class cancelled for PCA

Week 7

Tuesday 4/14

Thursday 4/16

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin pp. 764-99, Jacobs' Incidents pp. 804-25

Thoreau's Resistance and Walden chpt.1 pp. 825-86

Week 8

Tuesday 4/21

Thursday 4/23

Final paper due, (film)

Douglass's Narrative 920-91

Week 9

Tuesday 4/28

Thursday 4/30

Whitman's Preface to Leaves of Grass pp. 991-1010, Out of the Cradle, Endlessly Rocking pp.1062-66, When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd pp.1071-77

Melville's Benito Cereno

Week 10

Tuesday 5/5

Thursday 5/7

Dickinson

Final reflections and exam review

*Additional readings / materials will be posted to D2L