

## **ENGL 3331 American Literature I**

Fall 2012  
Department of Languages

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the beginnings of America's literary self-definition in the Colonial Period and covers the rise of American Romanticism and its culmination in writers such as Emerson, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Thoreau, and Dickinson. For English majors or by permission of the professor.

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name: Dr. D. M. Wilson  
E-mail [dmwilson@hbu.edu](mailto:dmwilson@hbu.edu)  
Office Phone : 281-649-3613  
Office Location: UAC 141  
Office Hours: MW 10-11; TTH 12:30-1 and by appointment

### **LEARNING RESOURCES**

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Seventh Edition, Vols. A and B. 0-393-92993-0

Gordon S. Wood, The American Revolution 0-8129-7041-1

Other online readings as assigned in class

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students should be able to follow the literary history of early American Literature to 1865, interpret major texts by American writers, and write essays about the topics we read and discuss. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings for each class. This course emphasizes close reading and critical thinking.

### **RELATION TO DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to develop a level of expertise in a particular field; improve critical-thinking skills and the ability to articulate difficult concepts, theories, and arguments; and provide a setting that fosters an appreciation for literature and encourages students to learn more about the world in which they live. More importantly, as with all other courses in the College or Arts and Humanities, this course should encourage students to use the knowledge and skills they gain to improve the human condition, strengthen the bonds of society, read wisely, and live well.

### **RELATION TO COLLEGE GOALS AND PURPOSES**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to develop a level of expertise in a particular field; improve critical-thinking skills and the ability to articulate difficult concepts, theories, and arguments; and provide a setting that fosters an appreciation for education and encourages students to learn more about the world in which they live. More importantly, as with all other courses at the University, this course should encourage students to use the knowledge and skills they gain to improve the human condition, strengthen the bonds of society, govern wisely, and live well.

## **RELATION TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

This course on politics reflects the values of the University Ten Pillar Vision by building on the classics, increasing our cultural impact, renewing our community, and allowing students to see the connection between theory and application. The course, like all courses in the Department of Languages, is founded on the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord and our Christian faith shapes our worldview, personal values, and desire to serve others.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Please see the official Attendance Policy in the HBU Classroom Policy on Blackboard. Students missing more than 25% of the class will be given a failing grade.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE SCALE**

Grades are the standard Clear excellence is an A, above average is a B, Average is a C, Below Average is a D, and a failing grade is an F.

Attendance and Participation (including short papers and oral reports)	20%
Mid Term Examination	20%
Paper #1	20%
Paper #2	20%
Final Examination	20%

## **LATE WORK & TEST POLICY**

Late work will be penalized. You should not miss any exams. If you are sick, you need to notify the professor in advance. The professor reserves the right to administer a different exam, deduct points for taking the exam late, and/or schedule the makeup for a later date. Missing an exam without giving prior notice will result in a zero for that test, with no makeup.

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Student Signature – I have read and understand the syllabus for this class. I understand that the content of this syllabus and the topical outline are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I have read and understand the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Black Board. **I promise to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity at Houston Baptist University and will not tolerate its violation by others.**

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

Week One: 8/20-24 Introduction to the course; Exploration Literature  
Week Two: 8/27-31 Puritan Writers  
Week Three: 9/3-7 Smith, Bradford, Taylor, Bradstreet  
Week Four: 9/10-14 Examination—part in class, part out of class  
Week Five: 9/17-21 American Revolutionary Writers  
Week Six: 9/24-28 Discussion, Wood The American Revolution  
Week Seven: 10/ 1-5 Jefferson, Franklin, Paine

Week Eight: 10/8-12 Madison, Hamilton, Adams, Wheatley  
Week Nine: 10/ 15-19 Presentations and Paper #1 due by Friday  
Week Ten: 10/ 22-26 Emerson  
Week Eleven: 10/29-11/2 Thoreau  
Week Twelve: 11/5-9 Hawthorne The Scarlet Letter  
Week Thirteen 11/12-16 Poe  
Week Fourteen 11/ 19-21 Melville  
Week Fifteen 11/26-30 Dickinson, Paper #2 due this week

Final Examination: Wednesday, 5 December, 8-10 am