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English 241

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Timothy Sweet, ENGL 241, Fall 2006, American Literature, beginnings to mid-19th Century

ENGL 241. American Literature, beginnings to mid-19th Century

Section 1

Fall 2006

TR 10:00 - 11:15

312 Clark Hall

Dr. Sweet

Office: 222 Stansbury Hours: TR 9:00 - 10:00 and by appointment

Phone: 293-3107 x33417

Email: tsweet@wvu.edu

Overview

American literature from its beginnings to the middle of the nineteenth century is a vast and diverse body of material. This

course does not attempt an exhaustive survey of that material, but rather focuses on three topics of perennial importance, working more or less chronologically through each one:

- First Nations—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, general editor, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 6th edition, Volumes A (to 1820) and B (1820-1865). These are in separate bindings but are packaged together.

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.

Schedule

8/22 - T - Course introduction

First Nations

8/24 - R - Stories of the Beginning, A.19-33

8/29 - T - Trickster Tales, A.120-56

8/31 - R - Harriot, A.80-86; Champlain, A.86-103

9/5 - T - Smith, *General History*, A.103-14 - and start reading Bradford

9/7 - R - Bradford, A.156-96

9/12 - T - Morton, A.196-204; Bradford cont'd.

9/14 - R - Rowlandson, A.308-40

9/19 - T - Occom, A.645-52; Apess, B.1079-84

9/21 - R - Cherokee Memorials, B.1029-39; Bryant, APrairies, @ B.1071-72, 1075-78

9/26 - T - *First Exam*

Nature

9/28 - R - Smith, *Description of NE*, A.114-17; Van der Donck, A.285-92; Byrd, *History*, A.447, 453-64

10/3 - T - Bradstreet, *A Contemplations*, @ A.238, 253-59; Taylor, *A Upon a Wasp*, @ A.341, 359; Edwards, *A Beauty of the World*, @ *Images or Shadows*, A.464-66, 509-14

10/5 - R - Paine, *Age of Reason*, A.704-05, 718-24 Jefferson, *Notes on Va.*, A.725-26, 733-38

10/10 - T - Reading day - no class

10/12 - R - Emerson, *Nature*, B.1103-34

10/17 - T - Whitman, *A Out of the Cradle*, @ *AA's I Ebb=d*, @ B.2127-31, 2212-18; Dickinson, B.2499-2503 and poems TBA

10/19 - R - Cooper, B.1013-29; Spofford, "Circumstance" B.2587-97

10/24 - T - Thoreau, *A Walking* @ B.1788-92, 1993-2016

10/26 - R - **Second Exam**

Liberty

10/31 - T - Winthrop, A.205-26

11/2 - R - Crèvecoeur, A.657-82; Jefferson, *Declaration*, A.726-32

11/7 - T - Election day recess - no class

11/9 - R - Irving, *A Rip Van Winkle*, @ B.978-92; Hawthorne, *A My*

Kinsman," B.1247-63

11/14 - T - Bradstreet, poems A.239-51; Sedgwick, ACacoethes
Scribendi,@ B.1039-50

11/16 - R - Wheatley, A.808-25

11/21, 11/23 **Thanksgiving recess**

11/28 - T - Douglass, *Narrative*, B.2029-97

11/30 - R - D, *Narrative* cont'd.

12/5 - T - Douglass, *My Bondage*, B.2097-2108

12/7 - R - Stowe, B.1670-1746

Third Exam: Monday, December 11, 11:00 to 1:00 in the regular
classroom (312 Clark)

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