

**ENGLISH 2103 A**  
**INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN LITERATURE**

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Sean Moreland

Office Hours: Monday 1300 – 1400 or by appointment in 329 Hamelin (Arts) (70 Laurier Ave.)

Email: [smorelan@uottawa.ca](mailto:smorelan@uottawa.ca) (be sure to drop the “d” from my last name!)

Classes held: Tues 1300 – 1420 in SMD 428 (60 University Ave.)

Thurs 1130-1250 in WLD 108 (200 Wilbrod)

**OUTLINE**

A survey of major authors, works, and movements in American literature, in their social, cultural, and historical contexts. Starting with European colonial contact and moving through to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we will examine a variety of authors and texts (including fictional and non-fictional prose and poetry) in terms of their historical and cultural context, their literary/aesthetic importance, and their contribution to (and interrogation of) notions of American national identity.

**REQUIRED TEXTS** (Available at Benjamin Books, 122 Osgoode St.)

*Norton Anthology Of American Literature* (Shorter Ninth 2-Volume Edition, 1<sup>st</sup> volume)

*Wieland*, C. B. Brown

*The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*, E.A. Poe

*Moby-Dick*, H. Melville

During in-class lectures and discussions I will refer to the pagination in the specific editions ordered for the course and available at Benjamin Books. Students are welcome to look for the books used, online, or elsewhere, but will be responsible for finding textual references on their own should they do so.

## **EVALUATION**

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|-------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Short Response 1</b>       | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>Short Response 2</b>       | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>Research Project</b>       | <b>35%</b> |
| <b>Final Exam (Take-Home)</b> | <b>35%</b> |

**ATTENDANCE** in the course is mandatory. Students are responsible for any lecture/discussion material missed during classes they were unable to attend. Students missing more than one third of the classes in a semester without documented justification will be barred from writing the exam, and will receive an incomplete for the course.

**DUE DATES AND LATE POLICY:** **Late assignments will lose 10% per day** except in cases of documented emergency. A medical certificate validated by University of Ottawa Health Services is required for any exemption, extension, make-up test, etc., — or else, in the case of a personal crisis, a letter from the University's counseling service. Give your professor the official University of Ottawa medical certificate or counselor's letter. Do not bring notes from your family doctor to the professor; please take them to the University Health Service. This way your personal details remain confidential, and your professor can treat all students equally by accepting all official UO certificates.

**INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK:** Failure to complete and submit the research project or final exam will automatically result in an incomplete for the course. Other incomplete assignments or late assignments will receive an automatic 0%, but the student will not receive an incomplete for the course.

**STYLE-GUIDE AND PLAGIARISM:** Submission of plagiarized material will result in an automatic zero on the assignment and possibly further consequences at the University's discretion. Students are required to properly cite any sources they have drawn on in their research papers. More information on what constitutes plagiarism, as well as on proper citation and other issues of format and style can be found on the English Department's style-guide at: <https://arts.uottawa.ca/english/style-guide>

Documentation for papers must follow departmental and MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines unless otherwise specified on the assignment instructions. Information on the University's academic fraud policy can be found here: <http://www.uottawa.ca/academic-regulations/academic-fraud.html>

uOttawa's SASS offers a writing tutorial service for students. More information at: <https://sass.uottawa.ca/en/writing>

The Department of English also offers writing tutorial help through the Writing Centre in MHN 526. More information at: <https://arts.uottawa.ca/writingcentre/en/writing-help-service>

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY:** The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of a sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment or online harassment. The University, as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint. For more information, visit [www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention](http://www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention).

## **SCHEDULE**

Course sections/topics and required reading author names are in **bold**, due assignments are marked in **red**, book titles in *italics*, chapters/short reading titles in “quotes.” Titles in quotes not in the Norton anthology are marked by \* and are available in the Required Reading area in Brightspace. Some of these are via the uOttawa Library’s digital portals, so will require you to sign in using your student access.

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|----------------|--|
| <b>SEPT 5</b>  | <b>Introduction</b><br>Syllabus, Aims of the Course.   |
| <b>SEPT 10</b> | <b>Cultural Contact and Cosmogonies:</b><br><b>Judeo-Christian and Native American Creation stories.</b><br>Cusick, “The Iroquois Creation Story,” Genesis 1-6, KJV.<br>Radin, “Winnebago Trickster Cycle” |
| <b>SEPT 12</b> | <b>The Puritans</b><br>Bradford, “Of Plymouth Plantation”  |
| <b>SEPT 17</b> | <b>The Puritans</b><br>Bradstreet, “The Prologue,” “Contemplations,” “In Memory of...”<br>“Here follow some Verses.....”<br>Rowlandson, “A Narrative of the Captivity...”                                  |
| <b>SEPT 19</b> | <b>The Puritans</b><br>Mather, excerpts from “The Wonders...”<br>Edwards, “A Divine and Supernatural Light,” “Sinners in the Hands....”<br><b>Last day to submit Short Response 1</b>                      |
| <b>SEPT 24</b> | <b>Drawing toward the Declaration:</b><br>Franklin, “The Way to Wealth,” “Remarks...”<br>John and Abigail Adams, * “Letters”<br>Crevecouer, “Letters from an American Farmer”                              |
| <b>SEPT 26</b> | <b>Drawing toward the Declaration:</b><br>Paine “Common Sense”<br>Jefferson, “Autobiography”   |

- OCT 1**                    **The Slavery Question?**  
**Equiano**, “Narrative of the Life”  
**Wheatley** “On Being Brought from Africa...”  
“To His Excellency General Washington”
- OCT 3**                    **Independence and States of Discontent**  
**T. Jefferson**, “Notes on the State of Virginia”  
**Red Jacket**, “Speech to the U.S. Senate”  
**Chief Logan's** “Speech”  
**Cherokee Women**, “To Governor Benjamin Franklin”
- OCT 8**                    **“Frontier Gothic”**  
**The Federalist**, selected excerpts  
**Brown**, *Wieland* (i)
- OCT 10**                    **“Frontier Gothic”**  
**Brown**, *Wieland* (ii)  
**Irving**, “The Devil and Tom Walker,”\* “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”\*
- OCT 15**                    **READING WEEK – NO CLASSES**
- OCT 17**                    **READING WEEK – NO CLASSES**
- OCT 22**                    **“The Ill-fated Laws Made by Man:” William Apess**  
**Apess**, “An Indian's Looking-Glass...”
- OCT 24**                    **Emancipation Narratives**  
**Douglass**, “Narrative,” “What to the Slave is....”
- OCT 29**                    **Emancipation Narratives**  
**Jacobs**, “Incidents in the Life...”  
**Sojourner Truth**, “Speech”
- OCT 31**                    **Transcendentalism & Its Discontents**  
**R.W. Emerson**: “Nature”, “Self-Reliance”  
**M. Fuller** “The Great Lawsuit”  
**H.D. Thoreau** “Resistance to Civil Government”

- NOV 5**      **Transcendentalism & Its Discontents**  
Hawthorne, “My Kinsman, Major Molineux,” “Young Goodman Brown”
- NOV 7**      **Transcendentalism & Its Discontents**  
Poe, *Arthur Gordon Pym*
- NOV 12**     **Antebellum Poetics**  
Emerson, “The Poet”  
Poe, “The Raven,” “The Philosophy of Composition”
- NOV 14**     **Antebellum Poetics**  
Whitman, Preface, One's Self I Sing, Shut Not Your Doors, Song of Myself,  
Dickinson, [I never Lost as Much But Twice -][Success is Counted Sweetest]  
[The Soul selects her own Society - ] Tell all the Truth but tell it slant - ]  
**Last day to submit Short Response 2**
- NOV 19**     **Antebellum Prose**  
Melville, *Moby-Dick* (i)
- NOV 21**     **Antebellum Prose**  
Melville, *Moby-Dick* (ii)
- NOV 26**     **Antebellum Prose**  
Melville, *Moby-Dick* (iii)  
**Research Project Due**
- NOV 28**     **Civil War and Reconstruction Era Writings**  
Harper, “Bury Me In a Free Land”  
Melville, “The Portent”  
Bierce, “An Occurrence at Owl-Creek Bridge”  
**Final Take-Home Exam Questions Posted**
- DEC 3**      **Civil War and Reconstruction Era Writings**  
Spofford, “The Moonstone Mass”  
Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”

**Final Take-Home Exam Due Before 1159 PM Dec 16 on Brightspace**