



**ENGLISH 355
AMERICAN TEXTS
EARLIER 19th CENTURY
Fall 2011**

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Course Website

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Meeting Place & Time

184 Andrews | TTh | 9:50-11:30

Course Description

English 355 surveys representative works of American literature from the early 1800s to the Civil War. This period includes the historical and artistic phenomenon widely known as the "American Renaissance" during which authors first began to assert themselves on the international literary scene. It includes authors often described either as Romantics (Irving, Poe, Hawthorne) or Transcendentalists (Emerson, Thoreau). Written texts will be studied as literary and historical documents. The goal of English 355 is to critically engage students with textual analysis while providing a broader scope of the formation of a distinct American literary voice.

Text

Krupat, Arnold and Robert S. Levine, eds. *The Norton Anthology to American Literature: Volume B (1820-1865)*. 7th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007.

Grading Scale

Course grades will be based on the following percentages:

Attendance & Participation	20%
Assignments & Quizzes	20%
Discussions	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Essay	30%

Attendance

Attendance is an essential part of this writing intensive, discussion-oriented course. It is expected that you will come to each class period prepared for the day's activities; when you do not show up, or when you show up unprepared, the quality of the class's labor suffers. As we will only meet in person once or twice a week, it is important that you attend class, barring any unforeseen illnesses, family emergencies, religious observances, etc. More than ONE absence will negatively affect your grade. You are responsible for all assignments given during a class period you miss.

Participation

This includes in-class and online dialogue, activities, and responsive listening. Participation is crucial. Simply showing up for class does not constitute participation. You are expected to present your informed ideas and show respect for others in the classroom. Participation constitutes mental and verbal attendance. You will be graded on how much you contribute to the learning environment of each class session.

Assignments & Quizzes

Throughout the quarter, you will be given a number of assignments to be completed both in and out of the classroom. In-class assignments will generally not be given ahead of time; they will be issued during class and are to be completed during that class session. If you are absent, you will not be able to make up those assignments. Quizzes

will be given periodically to ensure that the reading schedule is being followed. They will be administered at the beginning of class. If you are absent or tardy on a day that a quiz is administered, you will not be able to make it up.

Discussions

There will be several online discussions conducted via Pilot. Each discussion will include a writing prompt about a recent reading that you will be expected to address in detail.

Midterm Exam

This is an in-class writing exam for which you will be asked to discuss the literature studied during weeks 1-5. A writing prompt will be given to you at the beginning of the class session. The optimum way to study for the exam is to reread assigned texts and, most importantly, review the notes you take during lectures and discussions.

Final Essay

Your last writing assignment for the course is a 5-6 page literary essay. It should be based upon the ideas developed in our discussions and assignments as well as your own research and insights. You are responsible for developing your own topic and choosing one or two texts to analyze. Final essays must be distinguished by the following:

MLA STYLE
IMAGINATIVE, DISCERNING TITLE
IMAGINATIVE, ARGUMENTATIVE THESIS
MINIMUM 8 CITATIONS FROM PRIMARY TEXTS
MINIMUM 6 SECONDARY SOURCES
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: (1) copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; (2) paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; (3) turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, students are required to submit original material of their own creation. Plagiarism of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

Writing Center

The Lake Campus's writing center is located in room 221 in Dwyer Hall. Contact the director, Dr. Christine Wilson (christine.wilson@wright.edu), to make an appointment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN TO ANYBODY WHO USES THE WRITING CENTER.

Class Calendar

Week	Schedule
1	Introduction to the Course Introduction to Norton Anthology: American Literature (1820-1865)
2	Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle" & "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" William Cullent Bryant, "Thanatopsis" & "The Prairies"
3	William Apess, "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man" Edgar Allen Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" & "The Philosophy of Composition"
4	FILM: <i>House of Usher</i>
5	Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," "Self-Reliance" & "Thoreau" Margaret Fuller, <i>The Great Lawsuit</i> (Selection)
6	Midterm Exam Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" & <i>Walden</i> (Chp. 2: "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For") Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" & "The Birth-Mark"
7	FILM: <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
8	Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" Fanny Fern, Select Essays
9	Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
10	Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself"
E	Final Essay

(NOTE: This schedule is subject to minor changes.)