Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title:
American Literature I: English 261
3 Credits

Course Description:
A survey of major works and writers in American Literature from the European discovery to the Civil War. The course will focus on the developing literary tradition and how events and people shaped that tradition. Issues such as slavery, womens rights, Native American rights, United States independence, state secession and the Civil War are reflected in the writing of the varied authors as they create a national literature.

Course Objectives:
To discuss important themes in United States literature
To learn about major United States writers and their works
To analyze and write about United States literary themes and works
To analyze and discuss how varied ethnicities affected and were affected a developing literary tradition

Instructor:
Mr. Michael Porter
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Office Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9:00 to 10:00
Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 to 11:00

Lecture/Lab Schedule:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 to 1:50

Textbooks:

Course Requirements:
Daily reading assignments
Class discussion
Reflective papers
Tests and quizzes
General Education Goals/Objectives:

Goal 7: Demonstrates the ability to create and analyze art; evaluate aesthetics; and synthesize interrelationships among the arts, the humanities, and society.

Objective 1: Creates art
   Skill 1: Demonstrates knowledge of fundamentals of genres

Objective 2: Analyzes art
   Skill 1: Possesses a base knowledge of art forms
   Skill 2: Uses base knowledge to critique art works

Objective 3: Evaluates aesthetics
   Skill 1: Demonstrates knowledge of systems of aesthetics as those vary through time and among cultures
   Skill 2: Evaluates relationship of content and form in art works

Objective 4: Synthesizes interrelationships among arts, languages the humanities, and societies
   Skill 1: Demonstrates knowledge of art forms in cultures
   Skill 2: Evaluates the impact of art on individuals and society

Relationship to Campus Theme:
   Students will read about and discuss human nature as it is revealed in works of United States authors.

Classroom Policies: Grading
   1/3 daily quizzes, assignments and activities
   1/3 two essays
   1/3 midterm and final

Academic Integrity:
   All assignments, tests and quizzes will meet the standards of accepted Academic Integrity.

Disabilities and Special Needs:
   Students with disabilities or special needs must inform the instructor of those needs as soon as possible.
Tentative Course Outline:

American Literature I: 1500-1865: Fall 2013

August 28
Introduce class: Lecture: Exploration and Colonial literature pp. 1-5

August 30
Native American tradition pp. 4-5
The Iroquois Creation Story pp. 17-21
PIMA Stories of the Beginning of the World pp. 21-31
Native American Trickster tales pp. 72-86; 91-97

September 4
Literature of Exploration pp. 5-9
Christopher Columbus pp. 31-35
Bartolome De Las Casas pp. 35-39
Alvar Nunez Cabeza De Vaca pp. 41-48
Thomas Harriot pp. 48-55
John Smith pp. 55-72

September 6
Pilgrim and Puritan pp. 9-16
William Bradford pp. 104-126
John Winthrop pp 159-167
Mary Rowlandson pp. 235 “A narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs.
Mary Rowlandson” pp.236-243 “The Twentieth Remove” pp. 258-265
“Hannah Dustan’s Captivity and Revenge” pp. 343-346

September 9
Bay Psalm Book pp. 167-168
Cotton Mather pp. 307-313
Samuel Sewall pp. 288-289; The diary pp. 289-293;
Robert Calef pp. 334-342 (Salem Witch trial)
William Bradford “Mr. Morton of Merrymount” pp. 126-129
Morton pp. 138-146
Williams pp. 173-174 Writings pp. 184-187

September 11
Edward Taylor “Upon Wedlock and Death of Children” pp. 283-284;
“Huswifery” pp. 285-286
Anne Bradstreet “To My Dear and Loving Husband” p. 206; “In Reference to
Her Children, 23 June 1659” pp. 208-210; “Here Follow Some Verses upon the
Burning of Our House July 10th, 1666” pp. 212-213
September 13
Test

September 16
Introduction: later Colonial and Revolutionary time pp. 357-367

September 18
Native American’s Contact and Conflict
Pontiac pp. 438-443
Logan pp. 443-444
Red jacket pp. 445-447
Tecumseh pp. 447-449
Franklin: “Concerning the Savages of North American” pp. 468-472

September 20
Sarah Kimble Knight pp. 368-378
William Byrd pp. 378-384
John Woolman pp. 588-595 (Early anti-slavery)
J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur pp. 595-616

September 23
Benjamin Franklin pp. 449-450; The Way to Wealth pp. 451-457; Rules by
Which a Great Empire may Be Reduced pp. 457-462; The Autobiography: Part
One pp. 473-488; Part 2 “Continuation of the Account of my Life. Begun at
Passy, 1784” pp. 522-534.

September 25
Dr. Benjamin Colman” pp. 417-425; “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” pp.
425-438

September 27
John and Abigail Adams pp. 616-629
Thomas Paine pp. 629-630; Common Sense pp. 330-637; The Crisis pp. 637-643
Wheatley: “To His Excellency General Washington” pp. 761-762
Phillip Freneau pp. 742-743; “On the Emigration to the America and Peopling the
Western Country” pp. 743-744

September 30
Olaudah Equiano pp. 674-675 Narrative of the Life: Chapters II, III pp. 677-689
Phillis Wheatley pp. 751-752 “On Being Brought from Africa to America” pp
252-253;
Freneau: “To Sir Toby” pp. 746-748
“The Selling of Joseph” pp. 303-306
October 2
Tabitha Tenney pp. 905-927

October 4
Test

October 7
Introduction: Literature from 1820-1865: pp. 929-950

October 9
Assessment day

October 11
Washington Irving pp. 951-985

October 14
James Fenimore Cooper pp. 985-1009

October 16
Catherine Maria Sedwick pp. 1009-1028
First paper due

October 18

October 21

October 23

October 25
William Cullen Bryant pp. 1044-1051
October 28
Test

October 30

November 1

November 4
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow pp. 1495-1507
John Greenleaf Whittier pp. 1507-1508; “Snow-bound” pp. 1511-1528

November 6

November 8
“The Birthmark” pp. 1320-1332; “Rappaccini’s Daughter” pp. 1333-1353

November 13

November 15
Herman Melville “Bartleby, The Scrivener” pp. 2363-2389; “The Berg” pp. 2466-2467

November 18
Margaret Fuller pp. 1637-1640; The Great Lawsuit pp. 1640-1658
Elisabeth Drew Stoddard pp. 2524-2538
Lydia Maria Child pp. 1078-1080 “Women’s Rights” pp. 1096-1100
Sojourner Truth pp. 1695-1686
November 20
Fanny Fern pp. 1792-1805
Rebecca Harding Davis pp. 2597-2625

November 22
William Apess pp. 1051-1058
Jan Johnston Schoolcraft pp. 1058-1068
Black Hawk pp. 1253-1259
Elias Boudinot pp. 1260-1261
The Cherokee Memorials pp. 1263-1268

November 25
Walt Whitman 2190-2195; Preface to Leaves of Grass pp. 2195-2209;
“Inscriptions” pp. 2209-2210; “Song of My Self” 2210-2230
“Song of Myself”: p. 2254.

November 27
Emily Dickinson pp. 2554-2558
Poems pp. 2558-2595 (Students pick poems)

December 2
Test

December 4
Fredrick Douglass pp. 2060-2172
Second paper due

December 6
Harriet Jacobs pp. 1808-1829
William Wells Brown 1829-1841

December 9
William Wells Brown: Clotel; or the President’s Daughter pp. 1841-1853
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper pp. 2538-2539; “Eliza Harris” pp. 2539-2340;
“The Slave Mother” pp. 2541-2542; “The Fugitive’s Wife” p. 2543;
“Bury Me in a Free Land” pp. 2545-2546; “The Colored People in America” pp. 2546-2547
1780-1787; Chapter XL pp. 1787-1792
1510-1511

December 11
Jefferson “ Notes on the State of Virginia pp. 1684-1686; David Walker pp. 1684-
1690; Martin R. Delany pp. 1696-1698; William Lloyd Garrison pp. 1690-1692;
Angeline Grimke pp. 1692-1695; Daniel Webster pp. 2172-2175; Abraham
Lincoln pp. 1627-1636; Mary Boykin Miller Chesnut pp. 2189-2190
December 13

December 16
  Finish“When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed” pp.2282- 2288
  Review

December 19: 12:00-2:00 p.m.
  Final Exam