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, women's 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
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 2:00 to 3:00

Lecture/Lab Schedule:
Monday Wednesday, Friday

Textbooks:

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

Goal 6: Demonstrates the knowledge of the human experience throughout history

Objective 2: Recognizes the world of human diversity
  Skill 1: Demonstrates knowledge of varying cultural standards throughout the world
  Skill 2: Identifies the varieties of human social groupings

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 2009

August 26
Introduce class: Lecture: Exploration and Colonial literature pp. 1-5

August 28
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

August 31
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

August 29
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 2
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 4
Michael Wigglesworth pp. 217-234
Edward Taylor “Upon Wedlock and Death of Children” pp. 283-284;
“Huswifery” pp. 285-286

September 9
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 11
Test

September 14
Introduction: later Colonial and Revolutionary time pp. 357-367

September 16
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 18
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 21

September 23

September 25
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 28
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
September 30
Tabitha Tenney pp. 905-927

October 2
Test

October 5
Introduction: Literature from 1820-1865: pp. 929-950

October 7
Washington Irving pp. 951-985

October 9
James Fenimore Cooper pp. 985-1009

October 12
Catherine Maria Sedwick pp. 1009-1028
First paper due

October 14

October 16

October 19

October 21
William Cullen Bryant pp. 1044-1051

October 23:
Research project
October 26
Test

October 28

October 30

November 2
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow pp. 1495-1507
John Greenleaf Whittier pp. 1507-1508; “Snow-bound” pp. 1511-1528

November 4

November 6
“The Birthmark” pp. 1320-1332; “Rappaccini’s Daughter” pp. 1333-1353

November 9

November 13
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 16
Fanny Fern pp. 1792-1805
Rebecca Harding Davis pp. 2597-2625

November 18
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 20
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”: 52 p. 2254.

November 23
Emily Dickinson pp. 2554-2558
Poems pp. 2558-2595 (Students pick poems)

November 25
Test

November 30
Fredrick Douglass pp. 2060-2172
Second paper due

December 2
Harriet Jacobs pp. 1808-1829
William Wells Brown 1829-1841

December 4
William Wells Brown: Clotel; or the President’s Daughter pp. 1841-1853
Harriet Beecher Stowe pp. 1698-1701; Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Chapter XXXIV pp. 1780-1787; Chapter XL pp. 1787-1792

December 7

December 9

December 14
“When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed” pp. 2282-2288
Review