



**English 241**  
**Literatures of the United States to 1860**  
**Fall 2005**

*Line no. 11862*  
MWF 11:40-12:30 LL 102

**Early American Teaching Group**

*Prof. Joe Lockard*  
*Henry Quintero, Ph.D. cand.*

**Office Hours and Contact Information:**

Lockard MWF 10-11:30 and 4-5 (except 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month), or by  
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## Course Description

Early American literature emerged from a potpourri of competing voices speaking many languages. It borrowed and stole stories, invented new genres, tried politeness and crudeness alternately, and both copied and rejected its native, European and African precedents. This is a literature of colonialism, of syncretic self-invention, and of insistent democracy.

This course will survey major features and ideologies of 'American literature' from its seventeenth-century origins until the Civil War era, questioning its origins and canon. We shall be especially attentive to the historical contexts of American literature, to its roots in radical social alienations, and to the diversity of its writers and readers. We will read, introduce and analyze a range of influential authors, works, genres, movements, ideologies and cultural narratives that constitute the body known as 'early American literature.' The genres covered will include exploration narratives, promotional literature, captivity and slave narratives, travel narratives, religious literature, prose fiction, history, oratories, autobiographies, and political writing.

The course is heavily discursive and relies on dialogue and general participation. Literature is a discussion; this course is a discussion.

## Course Texts

*Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Paul Lauter, ed., vol. 1, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Houghton Mifflin)  
E.D.E.N. Southworth, *The Hidden Hand, or Capitola the Madcap* (Rutgers University Press)

## Course Requirements

- Two four-page papers [15 percent each, 30 percent total]
- Midterm exam [20 percent]
- Final exam [40 percent]
- Participation incentive [10 percent] (based on instructor evaluation)

## Attendance

Attendance is required throughout the course. Two section absences without prior excuse will result in the lowering of a student's final course grade by one letter. Four section absences will result in failure. Attendance sign-in will be taken at all discussion sections. Lecture sign-ins will be taken on an occasional basis 3-4 times during the course; lecture absence will count equally with section absence.

## Reading

A complete knowledge of the day's assigned reading is required. This course is predicated on give-and-take discussion, and without a reading knowledge of the text it is difficult or impossible to participate meaningfully in class discussions. This is more than a standard syllabus clause; it is a matter of respect towards the class discussion, and in a larger sense, respect towards the communities whose literatures we are reading.

## Office Hours

Students will be required to attend a minimum of two 15-minute office hours sessions during the semester. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss coursework, paper assignments, and any questions you might have. Further, large universities need personalization. Although this is a large course, no one will disappear into anonymity.

Office hours sign-up lists will be passed around section meetings. Instructors will establish their own office hours. If instructors must cancel an office appointment, we will try to notify you by e-mail. To cancel a scheduled appointment, send your instructor an e-mail note. It is poor form to skip an appointment without prior notice.

We will keep announced open office hours together with scheduled hours. Please feel encouraged to visit without an appointment during these hours, to discuss coursework or just to chat.

### **Online**

There is a MyASU course-site for this course. Course materials will be posted there regularly, including lecture materials and section discussion summaries. Consult the English 241 MyASU site regularly, visible and accessible via your MyASU homepage.

### **Writing**

Your writing is a crucial element of your success in this course. We will be available in office hours to discuss paper ideas, and to read and comment on paper drafts. For in-depth editorial work on your writing, visit the Writing Center at LL340 or call them for a tutorial appointment at (480) 965-4272.

High rates of plagiarism have been noticed in English literature courses. Plagiarism violates the ASU Student Code of Conduct, available online at: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/sta/sta104-01.html>. The instructors will regard plagiarism with utmost seriousness and follow university procedures to resolve such problems. Paper assignments will be formulated to reduce possibilities for plagiarism and better guarantee a fair opportunity to all students.

### **Grades**

Grades are an archaic form of evaluation, and better forms of evaluation can be employed. However, your instructors appreciate having salaries and this course gives honest grades using clear criteria.

You have the right to query or challenge any grade given during this course, without concern for making the request. Upon receiving a grade query, we will either raise or confirm the grade. We take grade queries seriously and will revise a grade upwards given a reasonable case for doing so.

### **Accommodations**

If you have a learning variation that makes online assignments difficult, please let the instructors know and we will arrange another method of evaluation. If certain instructional styles work better for you than others, please let us know: e.g., if you need handouts in large print, if certain visual formats are more difficult for you to understand than others, if all printed material needs to be in black and white instead of colors, etc. Such accommodation requests should be made at the beginning of the semester.

This is a child-friendly class. If you have a child-care emergency or arrangements problem that otherwise might prevent you from coming to class, please bring your children to class and we shall be delighted to see them.

### **And Finally, An Actors Equity Casting Call...**

Want to fulfill your class participation requirement and make the instructors smile? Feel a calling to act out Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," or an early Federalist-era play, or Walt Whitman declaiming? A sign-up list will be passed around for those who would like to act in this class. We will be recruiting a select band of actors – hopefully cheerfully dissolute sorts -- to dramatize some of the texts we will read in this class.

## Detailed Schedule

- *This schedule is subject to adjustments and alterations, which will be announced both in class and online.*
- *Readings are due at the class meeting on the assignment date specified. 'HA' refers to 'Heath Anthology.'*
- *Bold numbers in square brackets refer to class session number.*

Monday, August 21 [1]

Introduction

Wednesday, August 23 [2]

**Re-reading the Stereotype** – Read Southworth, Introduction and pp. 7-77.

Friday, August 25 [3]

**Re-reading the Stereotype** -- Read Southworth, 78-231

Monday, August 29 [4]

**Re-reading the Stereotype** -- Southworth, 242-348

Wednesday, August 31 [5]

**Re-reading the Stereotype** -- Southworth, 349-485

Friday, September 2 [6]

**Europe, Arizona and New Mexico** – Read Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca (HA 119-130); Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà, selections from *The History of New Mexico* (HA 146-164); Don Antonio de Otermín, 'Letter on the Pueblo Revolt' (HA 182-190); Hopi, 'The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt' (HA 190-194); Don Diego de Vargas, from *Letter on the Reconquest of New Mexico, 1692* (HA 194-200).  
Paper #1 assignment.

(Labor Day – Monday, September 5)

Wednesday, September 7 [7]

**French and English Encounter and Settlement Narratives** – Read Samuel de Champlain, from *The Voyages of Samuel de Champlain* (HA 205-211); from *The Jesuit Relations*, 'The Relation of 1647' (HA 213-221); Thomas Harriot, *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia* (HA 224-233); John Smith, *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles* (HA 242-256); Nathaniel Bacon, *Nathaniel Bacon Esq'r his Manifesto Concerning the Present Troubles in Virginia* (HA 260-267).

Friday, September 9 [8]

No reading due. Paper discussion day.

Monday, September 12 [9]

**The Puritan Elders** – Read John Winthrop, from *A Modell of Christian Charity* and *The Journal of John Winthrop* (HA 294-311); William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (HA 311-334); Thomas Shepard, *Autobiography* (HA 355-382).  
Paper #1 due.

Wednesday, September 14 [10]

**Early New England Religious Culture** – Read Anne Bradstreet (HA 382-401); Michael Wigglesworth, from *The Diary of Michael Wigglesworth* and 'A Song of Emptiness' (HA 402-410); Cotton Mather, from *The Wonders of the Invisible World* and *Magnalia Christi Americana* (HA 495-511).

Friday, September 16 [11]

Discussion section review and return of Paper #1.

Monday, September 19 [12]

**Frontier Conflict and Captivity Narratives** – Read Mary White Rowlandson, from *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (HA 425-456); Cotton Mather, *Decennium Luctuosum: An History of Remarkable Occurrences in the Long [Indian] War* (HA 512-514); John Williams, from *The Redeemed Captive Returning to Zion* (HA 521-531).

Wednesday, September 21 [13]

**Religious Awakenings: Two Versions** – Read Jonathan Edwards, from *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God*, 'Personal Narrative', and 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God' (HA 620-622, 626-650); John Woolman, from *The Journal of John Woolman* and *Some Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes* (HA 664-683).

Friday, September 23 [14]

Discussion section review.

Monday, September 26 [15]

**Benjamin Franklin and 'Seizing the Scepter of Tyrants'** – Read Franklin, 'The Way of Wealth,' 'A Witch Trial at Mount Holly,' 'The Speech of Polly Baker,' 'Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America,' 'On the Slave Trade,' 'Speech in the Convention,' and from *The Autobiography* (HA 782-784, 785-796, 798-801, 804-867).

Wednesday, September 28 [16]

**Transatlantic Revolutions** – Read Thomas Paine, from *Common Sense*, *The American Crisis*, *The Age of Reason* (HA 934-954).

Friday, September 30 [17]

**African American Rebellion** – *Narrative of Boston King* (electronic resource)

Monday, October 3 [18]

**Early American Republicanism** – Read Thomas Jefferson, 'A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled'; from *Notes on the State of Virginia* and 'Letters' (HA 975 – 1007); *The Federalist no. 6*, *The Federalist no. 10*, 'An Anti-Federalist Paper' (HA 1008 – 1022).

Wednesday, October 5 [19]

**Early American Disenfranchisement** – Read Samson Occum, *A Short Narrative of My Life* and *A Sermon Preached by Samson Occum* (HA 1078 – 1100); Prince Hall, 'To the Honorable Council & House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts' and 'A Charge, Delivered to the African Lodge' (HA 1106 – 1115); Judith Sargent Murray, 'On the Equality of the Sexes' (HA 1157 – 1163).

Friday, October 7 [20]

**Phillis Wheatley** – Read Phillis Wheatley, 'To Mæcenas,' 'Letter to the Right Hon'ble The Earl of Dartmouth,' 'To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth,' 'Letter to the Rt. Hon'ble the Countess of Huntingdon,' 'On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield 1770,' 'On the Death of Dr. Samuel Marshall 1771,' 'On Being Brought from Africa to America,' 'A Farewell to America,' 'To the University of Cambridge, in New England,' 'To His Excellency General Washington,' 'Liberty and Peace,' 'Letter to Samson Occum' (HA 1205 – 1221)

Monday, October 10 [21]

**Federal Period Drama** – Read Royall Tyler, 'The Contrast: A Comedy in Five Acts' (HA 1257 – 1300)

Wednesday, October 12 [22]

**Eighteenth-Century Sex Scandals and Literary Bestsellers** – Read Hannah Webster Foster, from *The Coquette; or, the History of Eliza Wharton* (HA 1306 – 1325)

Friday, October 14 [23]

**Mid-Term Examination**

Monday, October 17 [24]

**Indians, Whites and Narrative Mirrors** – Read William Apess, *An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man* (HA 1397 – 1403); Elias Boudinot, 'An Address to the Whites' (HA 1409 – 1418); Seattle, 'Speech of Chief Seattle' (HA 1418 – 1422); George Copway, from *The Life of Kah-ge-ga-gah-bowh* (HA 1422 – 1437); Washington Irving, from *A History of New York* [chap. 5] (HA 2071 – 2081); Lydia Sigourney, 'The Indian's Welcome to the Pilgrim Fathers' and 'Indian Names' (HA 1507 – 1509)

Wednesday, October 19 [25]

**Regionalism and the Populist Voice** – Read Washington Irving, 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' (HA 2081 – 2112); Davy Crockett, from *The Crockett Almanacs* (HA 2052 – 2055); Mike Fink, from *The Crockett Almanacs* and 'The Death of Mike Fink' (HA 2056 – 2060).

Friday, October 21 [26]

No reading due. Midterm exam returned.

Monday, October 24 [27]

**Hawthorne and Civil Sin (1)** – Read Nathaniel Hawthorne, 'My Kinsman, Major Molineux,' 'Young Goodman Brown,' and 'The Minister's Black Veil' (HA 2170 – 2203); Herman Melville, "Hawthorne and His Mosses" (HA 2714 – 2726).

Wednesday, October 26 [28]

**Hawthorne and Civil Sin (2)** -- Read Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (HA 2235 – 2372) Guest discussion by Fr. Nathan Castle, Director, Newman Center at ASU

Friday, October 28 [29]

**Hawthorne and Civil Sin (3)** – Read Hawthorne, Preface to *The House of the Seven Gables* (HA 2372 – 2373); and Joe Lockard and Ewa Pagacz, "[Nathaniel Hawthorne's License Plates](#)" (electronic resource).  
Paper #2 assignment.

Monday, October 31 [30]

**Poe's Mysteries (1)** -- Read Edgar Allan Poe (HA 2387 – 2389), 'The Fall of the House of Usher,' 'The Tell-Tale Heart,' and 'The Black Cat' (HA 2400 – 2413, 2420 - 2429)

Wednesday, November 2 [31]

**Poe's Mysteries (2)** -- Read Edgar Allan Poe, 'The Purloined Letter' and 'The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar' (HA 2430 – 2449).

Friday, November 4 [32]

**Poe's Mysteries (3)** – Read Edgar Allan Poe, 'The Raven,' 'The Philosophy of Composition,' 'The City in the Sea,' 'The Sleeper,' 'Ulalume,' and 'Annabel Lee' (HA 2467 – 2470, 2449 – 2457, 2461 – 2464, 2470 – 2474)

Monday, November 7 [33]

**The New England School (1)** – Read Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'Nature', 'The American Scholar,' and 'The Poet' (HA 1512 – 1555, 1572 – 1587).  
Paper #2 due.

Wednesday, November 9 [34]

**The New England School (3)** – Read Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'Self-Reliance' (HA 1555 – 1572); Henry David Thoreau, *Resistance to Civil Government* (HA 1669 – 1686).

(Veterans Day – Friday, November 12)

Monday, November 14 [35]

**Literature and 'The Woman Question'** – Read Sarah Moore Grimké, from *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and on the Condition of Woman*; Angelina Grimké, 'Letters to Catherine Beecher'; Sojourner Truth, 'Reminiscences by Frances D. Gage,' Speech at the

New York City Convention,' 'Address to the First Annual Meeting of the American Equal Rights Association' (HA 2012 – 29); Fanny Fern, 'The Working Girls of New York' (HA 2030 – 2031, 2037 – 2038); Elizabeth Cady Stanton, from *Eighty Years and More: Reminiscences*, and *Declaration of Sentiments* (HA 2038 – 2044)  
Paper #2 returned.

Wednesday, November 16 [36]

**Literature and the Slavery Question (1)** – Read David Walker, from *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World*; William Lloyd Garrison, 'Editorial'; Lydia Maria Child, from *Appeal in Favor of that Class of Americans Called Africans* and 'Letters'; Angelina Grimké, from *Appeal to the Christian Women of the South* (HA 1774 – 1814).

Friday, November 18 [37]

No reading due.

Monday, November 21 [38]

**Literature and the Slavery Question (2)** – Read Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (HA 1814 – 1880) and 'What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?' (HA 1881 – 1899).

Wednesday, November 23 [39]

**Literature and the Slavery Question (3)** – Continue with Douglass.

(Thanksgiving Break – November 24-25)

Monday, November 28 [40]

**Literature and the Slavery Question (4)** – Read Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (HA 2550 – 2553, 2598 – 2655).

Wednesday, November 30 [41]

**Literature and the Slavery Question (5)** – Complete discussion of *Benito Cereno*

Friday, December 2 [42]

**'The United States...the Greatest Poem' (1)** – Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (HA 2846-2914)

Monday, December 5 [43]

**'The United States...the Greatest Poem' (2)** – Walt Whitman, 'The Sleepers' (HA 2914-2922), 'Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,' (HA 2927-2932), *Drum Taps* poems (HA 2936-2941), 'When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed' (HA 2941-2948), 'Respondez!' (HA 2957-2959), 'Democratic Vistas' (HA 2960-2969).

**Final Exam**