

ENGL 3360.01/03: Survey of American Literature, Beginnings to 1865
Spring 2017, Three Credit Hours
Dr. Jason M. Payton

Course Description:

In this course, we will survey a wide range of literary and historical texts from the colonial period through early national period in an effort to learn how writers understood what it meant to be “American” and to write “American Literature.” We will read travel narratives, captivity narratives, sermons, sacred and secular histories, slave narratives, political treatises, speeches, poems, and novels, paying special attention to the ways in which authors used these diverse literary forms to imagine and respond to their historical moments. Additionally, we will consider connections between past and present in an effort to grasp the historical origins of some of the most trenchant cultural debates of our own times.

Required Texts:

Baym, Nina, gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. Vol. A. New York: Norton, 2012.

Grading Plan:

This course will evaluate your progress toward our main objectives through a series of focused discussions, exams, and formal writing assignments. The weighting of each of these elements is as follows:

Course requirements:

Short Essays.....	20%
Midterm Exam.....	20%
Final Exam.....	20%
Attendance and Participation.....	20%
WWiR Project and Presentation.....	20%

Course Schedule:

Below you will find your assigned readings and related activities listed for each class period for the term. Please be aware that the assignment listed next to each date is to be completed before you come to class on that day. Also, please note that this course schedule is subject to change. It is your responsibility to follow in-class announcements about adjustments to the course schedule and to prepare accordingly.

Daily Schedule:

Unit One: Indigenous Traditions and the Literature of Spanish Discovery, Conquest, and Settlement

1.19: Course Introduction.

- 1.24: Iroquois Creation Story (NAAL 23-25); Genesis 1-2 (any translation).
 1.26: WWiR Guest Lecture (Sarah Connell, Northeastern University).
- 1.31: Columbus: “Letter to Luis de Santangel,” “Letter to Ferdinand and Isabella” (NAAL 35-38); Zinn: “Columbus, the Indians, and Human Progress” (Blackboard).
 2.2: Cortés: “Second Letter to the Spanish Crown” (NAAL 54-59). León-Portilla, *The Broken Spears* (Excerpts on Blackboard).
- 2.7: The Laws of Burgos; The New Laws of the Indies (Blackboard). Las Casas: *The Very Brief Relation of the Devastation of the Indies* (NAAL 38-42).
 2.9: De la Cruz, “You Men,” “To Her Portrait” (online). **Essay One Due.**

Unit Two: The Chesapeake and New England

- 2.14: Smith: *The General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles* (NAAL 83-92).
 2.16: Tilton: “Miscegenation and the Pocahontas Narrative in Colonial and Federalist America” (Blackboard). Excerpts from Disney’s *Pocahontas*.
- 2.21: Rowlandson: *A Narrative of Captivity and Restoration* (NAAL 257-288).
 2.23: Williams: *A Key into the Language of America* (NAAL 194-204). **Essay Two Due.**
- 2.28: WWiR project work (small groups).
 3.2: WWiR project work (small groups).
- 3.7: Midterm Exam review session.
 3.9: **Midterm Exam. Preliminary WWiR project findings report due.**
- 3.14: Spring Break—No Class.
 3.16: Spring Break—No Class.

Unit Three: Awakenings and Enlightenment

- 3.21: Edwards: “A Divine and Supernatural Light,” “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (NAAL 416-441).
 3.23: Osborn, “The Nature, Certainty, and Evidence of True Christianity” (WWO).
- 3.28: Paine: *The Age of Reason* (NAAL 653-659). Jefferson: *Autobiography* and “The Declaration of Independence” (NAAL 661-667).
 3.30: Jefferson: *Notes on the State of Virginia*, “Query XIV: Laws;” Crèvecoeur: *Letters from an American Farmer*, “Letter IX: Thoughts on Slavery” (NAAL 669-673, 614-618).

Unit Four: Race and Gender in the Early Nation

- 4.4: Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, Chs. 1-3.
- 4.6: Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, Chs. 4-7.
- 4.11: Franklin: "Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America" (*NAAL* 476-480). Pontiac, "Speech at Detroit;" Jefferson: "Chief Logan's Speech;" Red Jacket: "Reply to the Missionary Jacob Cram;" Tecumseh: "Speech to the Osages" (*NAAL* 444-445, 449-450, 451-453, 453-455).
- 4.13: Wheatley: "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "Thoughts on the Works of Providence," "To His Excellency, General Washington" (*NAAL* 764, 768-771, 772-773); Morton: "The African Chief" (728-729).
- 4.18: Lee: "The Life and Religious Experience of Jarena Lee (WWO).
- 4.20: Chandler, "The Poetical Works of Elizabeth Margaret Chandler" (WWO).
- 4.25: Foster: *The Coquette*, Letters 1-30.
- 4.27: Foster: *The Coquette*, Letters 31-74.
- 5.2: WWiR project work (small groups).
- 5.4: **WWiR Presentations; Final WWiR Project Reports Due.**
- 5.8-5.11: **Final Exams** (TBA).