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Office Hours: [T 12-2, Th 12-1, F Online 2-3](#) and by appointment

American Literature 43A Beginnings-1877 Syllabus (Fall 2016)

Objective Overview of American Literature from the Colonial period to Reconstruction; reading, discussing, and writing about the literature within its historical and philosophical context.

*The instructor reserves the right to change the following material at any time.

Texts/Supplies *Norton Anthology Of American Lit Shorter Ed Vol 1* (ISBN 978-0-393-91886-1)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain) Any edition as long as it is complete and NOT ABRIDGED. Penguin is always reliable.

Amazon Streaming Video Account (Some of the assigned films and clips are available on YouTube or Netflix but Amazon is the most efficient.)

Necessary Programs In order to do work from home, you should have the following programs (all of which are installed on computers on campus): Internet browser (such as Internet Explorer or Firefox); district e-mail account (my.sccd.edu); word processor (MS Word preferably, see Paper Format below); Adobe Acrobat Reader for research. Blackboard is not compatible with phones- please do not attempt to upload work in that fashion.

Attendance Your attendance in this class is defined by both your participation on the discussion board and your time spent on the class site viewing and listening to lectures. If you should miss the first required post due by midnight, you will be dropped. **After that, if you should miss more than two weeks on the**

discussion board and/or spend very little time viewing and listening to the lectures, you will be dropped. I have access to both the amount of time you spend on the site and the various folders that you visit when you are on the site.

Discussion Board

The discussion board is fairly self-explanatory. Click on the discussion tab on the left hand side of the screen; click on the forum. You will be unable to see your classmate's responses until you have posted for the first time. Click on the forum and post your response. The program will automatically show your name on any post. After my initial questions/assignments (posted every Monday), I expect you to take over. This is the place for you to discuss literature with your classmates. It has the added benefit of time to think before committing to an answer- a real luxury! Your answers need to be fully developed and in academic language. Posts that do not adhere to academic language will receive zero credit. I read over the week's discussion and then I comment both individually to each student and to the class as a whole through a posted lecture. A well-developed post has on average 200- 300 words. The required word count for initial posts is always listed on the forum. At present, there is no required word count for responses, but if responses are underdeveloped then this will change. Plan on at least two to three sentences in response to your classmates.

Late Papers/Missed Exams

The following policy will be in place for late essays. You will be docked 10% of the essay's value (this means for a 200 point assignment, you will be docked 20 points and so on) for every day the essay is late. After the third day, I will no longer accept the essay. This includes weekends. Missed exams will not be available for make up for any reason.

Grades

Discussion board grades are based on my reading of the discussion. There are no wrong answers in this class as long as the discussion is thoughtful and developed. The use of text message language 'u' for 'you' or lower case 'i' for 'I' or any other kind of informal language will result in no credit for that posting. As English 1A is a prerequisite for this class, I expect that you will be familiar with MLA formatting. Essays that ignore MLA formatting will be docked the minimum of a letter grade and possibly more depending on the severity of the errors. I also expect that you will know how to incorporate quotation and how to identify and use a scholarly source. Essays that use sites like Wikipedia, Spark Notes or encyclopedias, even if cited correctly and properly punctuated, will not receive credit. Your essays are graded according to the standards of the [Reedley College Literature Rubric](#)

Plagiarism Use of another's work as though it were your own will not be tolerated. If I should discover that you have plagiarized either a discussion board post or *any* part of an essay, I will report you to the Dean of Students and the English Department Chair. I also reserve the right to require a face-to-face meeting in order to determine your identity. If you choose not to meet, you will receive a zero for the assignment or assignments in question. In any instance of plagiarism, you will receive zero credit for the assignment and reported to the Dean of Humanities. In the current Reedley College Catalogue, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

At any time, you have the right to appeal decisions regarding your identity or the authenticity of your work to the Committee on Academic Standards.

Extra Credit There will be opportunities for extra credit this semester. I will announce them once the semester has started.

Paper Format All essays must be in MLA Format. As noted above, English 1A is a requirement for this class; all students should be familiar with MLA formatting. This is not an option, but a requirement of the course. Should you submit an essay that does not follow MLA formatting; your essay will be docked a minimum of one letter grade. The rules governing MLA formatting (and many other useful tips) can be found here: [MLA Format OWL at Purdue](#)

Accommodation If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Schedule of Assignments

Discussion Board forums	Approximately 15 forums at 5-20 points each. Point values are increased if students are not participating as needed.
Midterm	50 points
Final	25 points
Paper #1	100 points
Paper #2	150 points
Paper #3	200 points
Total	1000 points (approximately)

Grading Scale

A	900-1000	90-100%
B	800-899	80-89%
C	700-799	70-79%
D	600-699	60-69%
F	000-599	00-59%