**Welcome to English 43A  Online- American Literature: Beginnings to 1865**

**~ Fall 2023 ~**

**Course Code: 55191**

**Instructor: K. Watts**

**Email: Contact through Canvas Inbox**

**Office Hours**: Monday Forum 8 1-2 pm; Tuesday Forum 8 12-2; Wednesday Forum 8 1-2; Thursday Zoom 3:00 pm-4:00 pm; Friday Zoom 2:00 pm-3:00 pm, and by appointment

**Zoom Link:**[**https://scccd.zoom.us/j/94160419991**](https://scccd.zoom.us/j/94160419991)

**Course Description**

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

**Course Schedule**

I post schedules for each unit one at a time. We spend four to six weeks on each unit. The first weeks will always be focused on reading, and the final week will be focused on writing. I reserve the right to make any changes to the schedule. If any changes are made, you will be notified immediately.

**Expectations**

**Prerequisites:**

As English 1A is a prerequisite for this class, I expect you to be completely familiar with MLA conventions-this includes formatting, the use and integration of quotations, and the assembly of both an annotated bibliography and work cited pages. Our embedded tutor, Laura, will be working one on one with those students who need a review of these requirements. Assistance is also available through the Reading and Writing Center, or students can reference sites, such as Purdue OWL (<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html>) for information regarding MLA and standard writing practices required for this course.

**Technology:**

Always use Chrome as your browser. While your phone can show you some materials, many materials will NOT be available to you on your phone or in another browser. All uploaded documents MUST be in Microsoft Word. I will not accept Google Docs or any other format.

Please review the “How To” videos posted in the Week 1 module for valuable information including how to download a free version of Word.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

SL01: Demonstrate comprehension of American Literature from the beginning of the literary tradition through Reconstruction.

SL02: Demonstrate connections to other world literatures and to the general historical and cultural milieu, and use those connections to interpret the literature.

SL03: Describe relationships between the literature and other disciplines (e.g. psychology, philosophy, sociology, and the arts).

SL04: Outline and describe different movements or progressions in American Literature from the origins to Reconstruction.

SL05: Research and write analytical papers using collegiate-level sources to determine a work’s contextual placement, audience, and/or theme.

**Required Texts and Materials**

In addition to the required texts listed below, there may be additional content or readings that will be provided via Canvas in the form of PDFs or digital media. Please be sure to thoroughly read announcements and the course calendar for detailed instructions regarding the reading materials required in each unit of this course.

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|  | **The Norton Anthology: American Literature - Beginnings to 1865**  Edition: 9th  ISBN: 9780393264524  Author: Levine  Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company, Incorporated  Formats: PAPERBACK, BryteWave Format |

**Communication**

Please always make sure to check both our course site and your district email for announcements as well as other essential course information. All emails should be sent using the Canvas Inbox function. All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line and begin with “Dear Ms. Watts….” Or “Hi Ms. Watts……” I will respond to your emails as soon as possible; however, if you email me late in the evening during the week (and sometimes after 8 is late for me!), don’t expect to hear back from me until the following day. Feel free to email me any time of the day or night- I do not get email notifications, so you will not be waking me up if you email late at night. I will be available over the weekends, but not in the evenings. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, please resend your email as that would indicate a problem with your first transmission. Please review the video "Using Proper and Professional Etiquette" presented by the Reading and Writing Center:

**Course Requirements**

**Forums:** (15 forums worth approx. 350 points total)

The forums on the discussion board are fairly self-explanatory. Go to our Home page. Click on the button under the image that contains the module for the week. Click on the discussion for that week and proceed. 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. Pay attention to the word count requirement for each week. If you are under the word count, it will affect your grade. Initial forum posts are due by 6 pm Friday and peer responses are due by midnight Sunday.

**Midterm Exam:** (Worth 100 points)

**Final Exam:** (Worth 100 points)

**Major Essay Assignments:**

**Essay 1:** (Worth 100 points)

**Essay 2:** (Worth 150 points)

**Essay 3:** (Worth 200 points)

**Grading Scale: 90% = A; 80% = B; 70% = C; 60% = D, 50% = F**

**Tutoring and the Reading and Writing Center**

The Reading and Writing Center is accessible virtually through their Canvas Course Site: students must enroll (open enrollment at no cost) in this course to access the free resources and book appointments with peer tutors. Use this link to self-enroll in the Reading and Writing Center course now: [https://scccd.instructure.com/enroll/LN9B8C](file:////enroll/LN9B8C)

For more information about available services at the Reading and Writing Center or how to book an appointment with a peer tutor, please watch the two tutorial videos located at the top of the Helpful How-To Videos page located in the Student Resources module.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance:**

The weekly forums are the equivalent of one week of class. If you fail to post to the forum, this is the equivalent of missing one week of class. Any student who misses more than two weeks of class will be dropped. The forums will always refer to the Zoom lecture in addition to asking students to analyze and comment on the reading or post their work in progress. Initial forum posts are due by 6:00 pm Friday and peer responses are due by midnight Sunday.

**Late Policy**:

Aside from the essays, late assignments are not accepted, so all assignments must be completed on the given due dates. You will be docked one letter grade for every day your essay is late. After the third day, I will no longer accept your work. Weekends count as days. I do not accept late work for quizzes, tests, worksheets, or forums. All assignments, except for the essays, are locked at midnight on the due date.

If you come to me BEFORE an assignment is due with a specific problem, we can work on resolving the issue together.

If for some reason you cannot access Canvas to post an assignment, wait a few minutes and try again. If Canvas is down for a substantial length of time, you may email the assignment to [kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu). I will record that you submitted the assignment on time; however, I will require you to submit the assignment to Canvas again as soon as it is available.

**Essay Revisions:**

You will have the option to revise Essay 1, and only Essay 1, if you met the basic requirements outlined on the assignment prompt, such as submitting your assignment on time, meeting the minimum page length requirement, and following standard MLA formatting guidelines. As part of the revision process, students will be required to meet with the instructor at least once to discuss the assignment; students will also be required to meet with a tutor from the Reading and Writing Center at least once for peer review. Students who meet these criteria will be able to submit their revised essay for grading; the grade of the revised essay will replace the grade of the first submission.

**Lack of Effort Statement:**

Your instructors at Reedley College want you to be successful in your classes and therefore expect you to submit your best work. Successful students in reading and writing classes make sure that they carefully address the prompt, proofread their writing, and follow MLA guidelines. Please note that an instructor may choose to read only the first page or less of an assignment and return it to you with little or no feedback if the paper demonstrates poor effort in areas such as, but not limited to, following directions, meeting the minimum requirements, and basic skills; this paper will receive a failing grade.  Successful students do the following: follow their instructor’s instructions, pay attention to the appropriate syllabus and rubric requirements, attend class regularly, seek assistance from the Reading and Writing Center, and ask their instructor for guidance during his/her office hours DAYS BEFORE their paper is due.

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit will occasionally be available in the lectures. One point of extra credit will be given to the student who first detects any error on my part throughout the semester and emails me to point out the error. This includes typos. There may also be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester, such as special events or live readings, which will be announced as they become available. Instructions on how to earn the extra credit for these opportunities will be given when they are announced.

**Academic Honesty**

The Reedley College English department has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined on page 48 of the Reedley College Catalog 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.”

If I determine you have plagiarized, I will refer you to the Dean of Humanities office for disciplinary action. Until you meet with the Dean once he has received the report, your account with the District will be frozen. You will receive zero credit for the assignment. This could result in a failing grade for the semester.

\*\*\*The use of AI is also a specific form of cheating. If I determine you have used AI for an assignment you will receive zero credit. If you use AI for a major assignment, you will be reported to the Dean of Humanities immediately. If you use AI on a more minor assignment like the forums or a response paper, the first time you will receive zero credit; however, after the first infraction you will be reported to the Dean of Humanities.

**Accommodations**

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.**This is extremely important. Your need for accommodation MUST be verified by DSPS. If you produce verification of this information at the beginning of the semester any need for the extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.

**Canvas**

All course announcements, the course schedule, assignments, and your grades are available on our Canvas course site. It is the student's responsibility to stay engaged and up-to-date with the course.

**\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this material at any time.\***