

English 48 Syllabus
Alexis Khoury

January 15: Introduction and historical overview. The New World and its Nature. Lecture on European invasion: Columbus, Cortes, and John Smith.

22: Read John Smith. The Puritan Impulse. Winthrop's "A Model of Christian Charity" (22-25). Bradford's "Of Plymouth Plantation." (32-48). Finding a Personal Voice in a Theological Society. Bradstreet (50-51, 59,61,63,64). Taylor (97).

29: Conflicts in Defining Value Systems. Edwards "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" Sewall (166-175). Propaganda and Self-Invention: The Captivity Narrative and the Autobiography: Rowlandson (72-81). Franklin (178-198).

February 5: Finish discussion of Franklin. How to write an essay for this class. Public and Political Writing as Ways for a Nation to Know Itself. Crèvecoeur "What is an American?" (262-272). Jefferson "The Declaration of Independence" (294-298).
Essay One Due

12: Fictionalizing Problems of American Identity. Irving "Rip Van Winkle" (352). Defining American Intellectual Thought. Emerson "Self-Reliance" (437-454). Lincoln "Gettysburgh" and "Second Inaugural"(672-674). Slavery. Olaudah Equiano "The Life" (309-318). Wheatley "On Being Brought from Africa to America " (325).

19: Frederick Douglass "Narrative of the Life" (832-842). The Romantic Impulse and the Birth of an American Literature. Hawthorne The Scarlet Letter

26: The Scarlet Letter.

March 5: **Mid-Term Examination**

12: Literature of the Dream World. Poe "The Fall of the House of Usher" (611). The Limitations of Vision. Melville Billy Budd (1038-1093).

19: Self-Invention in New Forms. Whitman "Song of Myself." Dickinson 1098,1099,1099,1103,1104,1105,1106,1108,1111,1114,1116,1117,1119).

26: Continue Dickinson.

April 2 Modern American Literature. Huckleberry Finn. **Essay Two Due**.

SPRING BREAK!!! April 6-10

9: Finish Huckleberry Finn. Chopin "The Storm" (1505). Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1528). James "Daisy Miller" (1387).

16: Frost (1724, 1725, 1719). Eliot The Waste Land (1830).

23: Angela's Ashes

30: Angela's Ashes.. Kinnell "The Fundamental Project of Technology" (2562).

May 7 Poems/Stories TBA.

14: Poems/Stories TBA.

Final Exam Date To Be Announced in Class.

Course Policies
English 48
American Literature
Alexis Khoury

638-3641 extension 406

Hours: Tuesday 1-2; Wednesday 12-2; Thursday 1-2; Friday 2-3.

Texts: The Norton Anthology of American Literature; The Scarlet Letter; Angela's Ashes.

Essays: You will write two essays for this class. Both essays will be literary critical essays: you will not be writing book reports. We will be talking about this distinction as the semester progresses. Essays must without exception be typed and include a cover page with your name, my name, the course, the date, and the class time. Please double space and leave ample margins. I dislike fancy folders and covers; a staple in the upper left-hand corner is sufficient. Your essays will not be accepted without rough drafts. They will also not be accepted without proper use of the MLA parenthetical citation form, which I will review in class.

Exams: You will have a mid-term and final. Both exams will be essay exams which will require specific and thoughtful responses to focused questions.

Late papers: Your grade for a late paper will be reduced by one letter. Late papers will not be accepted unless I have been forewarned and have agreed to give an extension. Papers will not be accepted if they are more than one week late.

Make-up Exams: There are no make-ups unless I have been informed beforehand as to why you will miss.

Grades: Your final grade will be an average of the exams and the essays. That means that the four grades will be added together and divided by four. If you fail to submit a paper or take an exam, you will receive a zero for that work and a zero will be averaged in to your final grade.

Attendance: I will drop you from the course if you miss more than six hours of class time.

Reading: Please keep up with the reading in order to avoid forcing me into having to give dumb and time-wasting Vanna White quizzes. If I do give dumb quizzes because you're not reading reliably, they'll be averaged together and then averaged in to your final grade.

Note: You are responsible for what happens here no matter what, which means that you need to stay abreast of any changes that are made in the syllabus. I reserve the right to revise the syllabus at any time due to the changing needs and interests of the class members.

IMPORTANT DATES: Martin Luther King Jr: 19 January; Last day to drop and not have it appear on transcript: 30 January; Lincoln: 13 February; Washington: 16 February; Last day to drop: 13 March; Spring Recess: 6-10 April; Final Exam Week 18-22 May.