

Class cancelled

Course Policies
English 48
American Literature
Alexis Khoury
638-3641 extension 3406
Hours: MW 12-1 Th 1-2

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.: 17 January; Last day to drop and not have it appear on transcript: 28 January; Lincoln and Washington: 18-21 February; Last day to drop: 10 March; Spring Recess: 17-22 April; Final Exam Week 15-19 May.

Please note: the syllabus is subject to change due to the changing needs of the class. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes made.

Attendance

English 48 Syllabus
Alexis Khoury

January 11-13: Introduction and historical overview. *The New World and its Nature*.
Lecture on European invasion: Columbus, Cabeza de Vaca, and John Smith. Read 40-48
for 1/13.

19: *The Puritan Impulse*. Read from *The Journal of John Winthrop*: 118-top of 125.
Read Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation* 88-98. *Finding a Personal Voice in a
Theological Society*. Read Bradstreet (143) and Taylor (171 "Upon Wedlock").

24-26 Watch *The Crucible*.

February 1-3: *Conflicts in Defining Value Systems*. Edwards "Sinners in the Hands of an
Angry God"(200). *Propaganda and Self-Invention: The Captivity
Narrative and the Advice Guy*: Rowlandson (147-bottom of 158). Franklin (213-
219).

8-10 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?" (293-301). Jefferson
"The Declaration of Independence" (325).

15-17: *Fictionalizing Problems of American Identity*. Irving "Rip Van Winkle" (428).
Defining American Intellectual Thought. Emerson "Self-Reliance" (550). Lincoln
"Gettysburgh" and "Second Inaugural"(762-63).

22-24: *Slavery*. Olaudah Equiano "The Life" (342-353). Wheatley "On Being Brought from
Africa to America " (360). Frederick Douglass (970-78). **ESSAY ONE DUE 2/24.**

29-March 2: *The Romantic Impulse and the Birth of an American Literature*.
Hawthorne *The Scarlet Letter*.

7: *The Scarlet Letter*.

9: **MID-TERM EXAM**

14-16: *Self-Invention in New Forms*. Whitman "Song of Myself." Dickinson (214,
241,258,341,435,441,465,501,664 (handout),712,754,1078,1129,1624,1732).

21: Continue Dickinson. **ESSAY TWO DUE 3/21.**

23-30: *Modern American Literature*. *Huckleberry Finn* (1265).

April 4-6: Chopin (1612). Howells (1465). Jewett (1596).

11-14: Frost: 1859; 1864; 1865; 1866. Eliot 2048.

17-21 APRIL SPRING BREAK!!!!

25-May 2 *Angela's Ashes*.

4-11 Kinnell "The Fundamental Project of Technology" (2572). Poems/Stories TBA.

Final: TBA