

ENGLISH 391: American Literature to 1865
Fall 2021

Dr. Sandra S. Hughes
ENG 391/700, CRN 24922
Time: TTh 2:20-3:40 LIVE on Zoom
E-mail: sandy.hughes@wku.edu

Office: Email or Zoom
Office Hours: T 3:45-4:30,
Th 3:45-5:15 & by appointment
Email for an appointment

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature (*9th edition*, vol. A and B)

Hawthorne: *Tales and Sketches* (Library of America Edition, either paperback or hardcover)

Note: 1) If, for any reason, Zoom class does not meet, you are still responsible for all readings listed on the syllabus as if class had met, and 2) You are expected to *read the biographical head note* in the Norton anthology for each author we study, and 3) The following syllabus is tentative. Deviations may be necessary.

Course Calendar:

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| T | 8/24 | Introduction; Calvinism ; genres of colonial literature; John Winthrop: "A Model of Christian Charity" (p. 176-77 ONLY) |
| Th | 8/26 | Anne Bradstreet: "The Prologue," "The Author to Her Book," "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet" |
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| T | 8/31 | Edward Taylor: "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children," "Meditation 38" (THIS POEM IS NOT IN THE NORTON; I WILL SEND YOU A LINK IN THE ANNOUNCEMENTS) |
| Th | 9/2 | William Bradford: <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> 1.4, 1.9, 2.11, 2.12, 2.19, 2.27, 2.28, 2.32 (p. 124-27, 131-34, 138-47, 150-55) |
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| T | 9/7 | Mary Rowlandson (entire work; p. 256-88): <i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson</i> QUIZ DUE ; Rowlandson discussed |
| Th | 9/9 | Rowlandson continued; Koasati Trickster Tale, "The Bungling Host" (pdf) |
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| T | 9/14 | Jonathan Edwards: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" |
| Th | 9/16 | Deism ; Benjamin Franklin: <i>The Autobiography</i> , first three pages of Part I, <u>all</u> of Part II |
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| T | 9/21 | Franklin continued; Phillis Wheatley: "On Being Brought from Africa to America" |
| Th | 9/23 | TAKE HOME EXAM 1 DUE; Romanticism ; Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Self-Reliance" (p. 269-76 ONLY) |
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| T | 9/28 | Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The Poet," "Each and All" |
| Th | 9/30 | Henry David Thoreau: <i>Walden</i> (p. 981-1033) |
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| T | 10/5 | Henry David Thoreau: <i>Walden</i> (p. 1071-85, 1127-55) QUIZ DUE |
| Th | 10/7 | Henry David Thoreau: <i>Walden</i> |
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| T | 10/12 | Nathaniel Hawthorne: "The Celestial Railroad" |
| Th | 10/14 | <i>Fall Break</i> |
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| T | 10/19 | Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Young Goodman Brown" |
| Th | 10/21 | Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Roger Malvin's Burial" |
| T | 10/26 | Nathaniel Hawthorne: "The Birth-Mark" |

- Th 10/28 Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Rappaccini's Daughter"
- T 11/2 **TAKE HOME EXAM 2 DUE**; Edgar Allan Poe: Reviews of Hawthorne's *Twice-Told Tales* and *Mosses from an Old Manse* (**I'll e-mail you links for the reviews**)
- Th 11/4 Edgar Allan Poe: "The Philosophy of Composition" "The Raven"
- T 11/9 Edgar Allan Poe: "Ligeia"
- Th 11/11 **PAPER DUE**; Herman Melville: Excerpts from *The Encantadas*, *Sketch the First*, "The Isles at Large," and *Sketch the Second*, "Two Sides to a Tortoise" (**print out from BB or my email**), "Hawthorne and His *Mosses*" (Norton)
- T 11/16 **Frederick Douglass: *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* (intro letters, entire text, appendix) QUIZ DUE**; Douglass discussed
- Th 11/18 Douglass continued; Whitman introduced
- T 11/23 Walt Whitman: "Live Oak, with Moss," "Here the Frailest Leaves of Me"
- Th 11/25 *Thanksgiving Break*
- T 11/30 Dickinson introduced; Emily Dickinson: "Some keep the Sabbath going to Church—"
- Th 12/2 Emily Dickinson: "A narrow Fellow in the Grass," "I heard a Fly buzz—when I Died—," "Because I could not stop for Death—"

FINAL EXAM WILL BE DUE TO BLACKBOARD NO LATER THAN 12/8 AT 3:00

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop a broad-based knowledge of the primary works of 17th-19th-century American literature,
- Students will develop a detailed understanding of literary movements and socio-historical contexts that surrounded writers within the specified periods,
- Students will use this knowledge to write independent critical analyses of literature,
- Students will understand how to document papers as specified by MLA style.

Requirements: You are expected to read all assigned texts and *Norton biographical notes* carefully, come to Zoom class prepared, and participate actively in Zoom discussions. You will write a paper, complete several take home quizzes, and take three exams, the last being a final with cumulative essays.

Attendance/Participation Grade:

Your participation is vital to this course's success. You must attend **LIVE Zoom class on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:20-3:40** in order to earn attendance/participation points for the week. If you enter Zoom class after I have called roll, it is your responsibility to notify me after class that you were present. If you fail to notify me, the absence on the books will stand. Because of the unusual challenges presented by Covid, I will be posting a recording of each class session on BB for you to use for study purposes, but you will not receive attendance/participation points for the week unless you attend the LIVE Zoom classes. **SEVEN OR MORE ABSENCES FROM TUESDAY/THURSDAY ZOOM CLASS WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE.** This is an ONLINE COURSE, so at a minimum you must be able to access **Blackboard and your WKU email 4-5 times per week (and always on Monday)**. In order to attend this class, which will happen LIVE on Zoom, you must have a sustained and **reliable wifi connection** of sufficient bandwidth to support an 80-minute class *and* **a webcam that you will keep turned on for the whole class.** If you do not have a webcam, you can use one of the Zoom labs on campus or you can purchase one for about \$15. Please consider these bandwidth and *active webcam* requirements carefully before selecting this course. If you will not have access to the tech requirements as described above, you

should **DROP THIS ONLINE CLASS** and choose another section.

Missed Work: It is your responsibility to consult the syllabus, BB, and classmates about missed work and *new assignments*. Don't e-mail me at midnight to ask if we did anything important in class. You may not make up graded class work such as exams unless you have made arrangements with me *prior to* your absence. Exceptions will be granted only in documented cases of emergency such as severe illness or injury.

Email Questions: You are welcome to email me whenever you have questions about the course. **Please consult your syllabus and all announcements on Blackboard before emailing me.** If you find that your question is not answered in the syllabus or announcements, send an email to me in which you **use the course number and time of class meeting as your subject line**, and do not forget to **sign your full name**. You should use appropriate salutation, capitalization, and punctuation, and **edit your message for errors in grammar and spelling**.

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation (quantity and quality)	5%
Take Home Quizzes	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Paper	20%
Final Exam (with cumulative essays)	20%
A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59 (no plus/minus grading)	

Discussion of Grades: Grades for all assignments will be posted on Blackboard. The best way to have a discussion about your grade is through Zoom during my office hours. Just **make an appointment**. Please keep in mind that there will be no extra credit offered in the course. I strongly advise you to ask questions about how to improve your grade *before* the last two weeks of the semester, when it may be too late to make a difference.

Essay Format: All final papers for this course must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins at top, bottom, and sides. Your name and class time should appear in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. Each of the remaining pages should be marked with your last name and the page number in the upper right-hand corner. For papers requiring citations, you will follow MLA guidelines for parenthetical references and a Works Cited page (Google *Purdue OWL*—Purdue Online Writing Lab—for help with MLA style).

Late Papers: Any paper received after the deadline posted on Blackboard will be judged late. Late papers are strongly discouraged and *will be penalized one letter grade per class week*.

Paper Submission and Academic Honesty: All papers must be submitted through Blackboard in Microsoft Word rich text format (.rtf). **Papers submitted as email attachments will not be accepted.** You are expected to cite material from the texts covered by your paper, but aside from the textbook itself, you are to consult NO OUTSIDE MATERIALS (for example, internet sources, print sources, lecture notes, Zoom recordings) OR OTHER PEOPLE in the preparation of the papers. Any violation of this policy will be considered plagiarism and **will be subject to plagiarism penalties as described below**. Plagiarism of any portion of the paper will be judged by this policy (stolen sentences will receive a penalty just like a stolen paper will). ***Keep a copy of all your papers to protect yourself against loss.***

Quizzes: We will have 3 take home quizzes. You will have several days to complete each quiz. You are expected to CITE MATERIAL FROM THE TEXT covered by the quiz. In this sense, it is an open book quiz. However, you are to consult NO OUTSIDE MATERIALS OR OTHER PEOPLE in the preparation of these quizzes. Any violation of this policy will be considered

plagiarism and will be subject to plagiarism penalties as described below.

Exams: We will have three exams, including the final. All of them will be take home exams that you will have 48 hours to complete. Exams will test your ability to interpret literature independently as well as your knowledge of assigned texts and class content. You should make every effort to take the exam during the scheduled 48 hour interval; “make-up” exams must be taken within one week of the exam date except under circumstances of severe illness or injury.

Plagiarism: I take academic dishonesty *very* seriously, and so does Western Kentucky University. **If you are found guilty of plagiarism (representing someone else’s words, ideas, or order of ideas as your own without correct documentation), cheating on an exam, turning in work that is not your own (in all or in part), or another act of academic dishonesty, penalties will include a grade of zero for the assignment and/or a failing grade for the course.** Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Important Dates:

August 30: Last day to add or drop a class without a grade

October 27: FN date (60% point in the semester)

November 1: Last day to drop a class with a W

December 6-10: Final exams

Writing Help: I encourage you to email me to make an appointment during my office hours to discuss your work at any stage of the writing process. I’ll be happy to give you feedback. Do not seek writing help from another source without discussing it with me.

Incompletes: Typically, incompletes will not be granted. Extraordinary extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor. The instructor will only consider an incomplete for students who are in good standing (C or higher) in the course.

Covid-19 Policies:

All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](#) (voice), [270-745-3030](#) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](#) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

ADA Notice: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center, Room 1074, Downing Student Union. The SARC telephone number is (270) 745-5004 (TDD: 270-745-3030). Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX, Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Misconduct/Assault Policy:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, 270-745-5396 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Resolving Complaints about Grades:

The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

\$50 Schedule Change Fee:

Students may drop or add classes with no financial penalty through the last day to drop or add a course as printed in the official academic calendar. **After that date, a \$50 Schedule Change Fee per course** will be assessed for all student-initiated schedule changes.

Possible Quiz Drop Activity from Norton Anthology (Write a paper on one of these topics to drop your lowest quiz grade; each paper should be approximately 3 pages long; you may only drop one quiz per semester; submit by the last day of regular classes):

- 1) Compare/contrast William Bradford's and Thomas Morton's accounts of the Merry Mount incident (just look under Bradford and Morton in the table of contents)
- 2) Compare/contrast Jonathan Edwards's "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" and his "A Divine and Supernatural Light"
- 3) Compare/contrast Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Howe's Masquerade" and "Lady Eleanore's Mantle" (in *Tales and Sketches*) with Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death"
- 4) Compare/contrast Frederick Douglass's slave narrative with Harriet Jacobs's slave narrative

Possible Quiz Drop Activity from "The Walden Experiment": Go *completely without* your computer, cell phone, texting, internet, email, social media, computer games, iPod, TV, Netflix, etc. for **48 hours**. The exceptions to the technological ban include using phones for emergencies, and word processing programs and Blackboard as *required* to complete class assignments. Follow instructions for the experiment to the letter—if you cheat, it doesn't count! Write up a 3-page analysis of your experiment, comparing and/or contrasting it to the text of *Walden*, in order to drop your lowest quiz grade. Submit the analysis **no later than the last day of regular classes**. No student may drop more than one quiz grade in one semester.