

English 391—On Demand

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Course Objectives

1. To foster an appreciation for American literature written prior to 1865.
2. To develop one's skills as a literary critic.

Books? What? No Books?

As indicated in the General Instructions, all reading materials will be supplied. Each lesson will be its own complete unit and will contain the reading materials, supplementary materials, video lecture, and essay assignments.

When you finish viewing this syllabus, please go to the "Preliminary Materials" for an introductory greeting and more detailed instructions.

Course Contents

Preliminary Materials

Lesson One: Pilgrims & Puritans

Lesson Two: Anne Bradstreet & Edward Taylor

Lesson Three: Jonathan Edwards

Lesson Four: Edwards & Benjamin Franklin

Lesson Five: Edgar Allan Poe

Lesson Six: Poe continued

Lesson Seven: Nathaniel Hawthorne

Lesson Eight: Hawthorne continued

Lesson Nine: Herman Melville

Lesson Ten: Melville continued

Lesson Eleven: Ralph Waldo Emerson

Lesson Twelve: Emerson continued

Lesson Thirteen: Henry David Thoreau

Lesson Fourteen: Thoreau continued

Lesson Fifteen: Walt Whitman and Preparation for the Final Examination

Assignments and Grading

There are fifteen lessons in this course. Each lesson will include written assignments. The culminating assessment is a proctored final exam. You must pass the final exam to pass the class.

Point Breakdown

Written Assignments (1 or more per lesson)	50%
Final Exam	50%
Total Score	100%

Examples: If a student has an average score of, say, 80 on the 15 lessons and makes a 90 on the final examination, he or she will have earned a final grade of 85, a solid “B” in the course. On the other hand, if the student has an average of 80 on the 15 lessons and makes a 50 on the final examination, the course grade will be an “F” since the student failed the final examination. **But do not panic!** If one has studied all of the primary and supplementary reading materials and has independently completed the essays, taking the final examination should honestly be an intellectually satisfying opportunity to display what one has learned in the course.

Technical Requirements

This course is taken completely utilizing Blackboard. You must have regular access to a computer with an internet connection capable of utilizing Blackboard, uploading and downloading documents, and streaming video.

Communication

The best way to reach me is through my WKU email. I intend to respond to student emails within a week,

Finally, please make sure that your emails are professional and courteous. This will expedite the process and make it more productive for both of us.

On Demand

On Demand refers to non-semester-based courses that are self-paced. Please review the On Demand policies found in the Syllabus content area for more information on how many lessons may be submitted a week, registration, exams, etc. Please contact [On Demand](#) with any questions regarding your expiration date or On Demand policies.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX/ Discrimination & Harassment Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). 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, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 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.

Academic Honesty

In all aspects of this course, students are required to demonstrate academic honesty and integrity as outlined in the [University Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) (WKU Catalog, 333-5). Violations of this include:

- Cheating by giving, sharing, or receiving unauthorized information before, during, or after an exam or assignment, whether verbal, written, code, or via electronic device used to read notes or search for information on the internet;
- Dishonesty, including misrepresentation or lying;
- Plagiarism (see handout below)

Penalties for academic dishonesty as noted in the *WKU Catalog* and in *Hilltopics: Handbook for University Life*: “Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions.”

Department of English Policy and Frequently Asked Questions on Plagiarism

What does it mean to plagiarize?

According to *Webster’s International Dictionary*, the definition of plagiarism is “to steal or purloin and pass off as one’s own the ideas, words, or artistic production of another; to use without credit the ideas, expressions, or productions of another.”

Basically, plagiarism comes in three forms: fraud, patchwriting, and insufficient or undocumented paraphrasing. In brief, each paper that you turn in and every sentence in it must be written completely by you, or you must give proper credit to the other writers for their ideas and words. In addition, most teachers consider handing in papers that were written for other classes to be a form of plagiarism. New papers should be written for each assignment unless your teacher indicates otherwise. Remember that writing teachers are experienced at picking out papers that contain plagiarism. Do not be tempted to download papers from the web or to “recycle” papers from other students.

Why shouldn’t I plagiarize?

Most people consider plagiarism to be ethically and morally equivalent to lying, cheating, and stealing. When you plagiarize, you have stolen another’s work. Further, you shortchange your own education and compromise your ethics. Additionally, you risk damaging your grade for the assignment or the course, and you risk damaging your GPA and your academic or professional career.

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offense. In a way, the very foundation of the American educational system rests on the issue of trust, and this trust depends on an honest exchange between students and their teachers. Just as students need to trust that teachers are honest

about grading, teaching, and advising, teachers need to trust that students will be honest when taking tests and writing papers. Plagiarism, or any type of cheating, seriously undermines this foundation. This sort of dishonesty indicates that there may be serious questions about the offending student's ethics, and the stigma of this unethical behavior may follow the student for years, decreasing the student's chances of success in academic and professional work.

What can happen to me if I plagiarize?

Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure. Your teacher may be understanding and tolerant of accidental plagiarism; however, you should check with your teacher if you have any doubts about whether you are committing plagiarism in a paper.

What is “fraud”?

Turning in a paper that was written or partially written by anyone else is fraud. In this case, “anyone else” includes everyone but you. You may not turn in a paper that was written or partially written by your parent, your boyfriend or girlfriend, your spouse, your sibling, a friend, a stranger, another student, a professional or amateur author, or anyone else.

What is “patchwriting”?

“Patchwriting” is taking several other texts that were written by others, piecing together these ideas or words into a single paper, and turning in that paper as your own work.

What is “insufficient or undocumented paraphrasing”?

“Insufficient paraphrasing” occurs when not enough of the original language and sentence structure of the source is changed for a paraphrase. To paraphrase correctly, major words and basic sentence structure should be changed from the original. “Undocumented paraphrasing” is taking sections of another’s words or ideas and changing them into your own words without giving the writer proper credit. A paper should not be made up of a series of paraphrases. Use paraphrasing to support your own ideas and not to construct your paper.

Does this mean that I can’t get help writing my papers?

You can. All successful writers rely on other readers to help make their writing better. In fact, going to the Writing Center or having another student or friend read your papers before you turn them in is generally a good idea. Often, classes will have “peer review” sessions that allow other students to read and comment on your papers. However, you should never let anyone else sit at the computer and type in words or hold the pen and write in words. Ask readers to limit their responses to letting you know where you might make changes (for example, word choice, spelling, confusing sentences, awkward structures, organization, etc.). Even if you decide to take a reader’s advice, you should not let them make substantial changes to your work.

Does that mean that I can’t look at what other people have written to get ideas for my own paper?

You can. However, if you write about what these other people have written on the subject or if you quote them, use their original ideas or language, or paraphrase, then you must give them credit in your paper. All sources, no matter how briefly used, must be cited.

How do I do that?

Part of the instruction in your writing classes is designed to teach you how to properly give credit to these other writers. If you plan to look at what other writers have said about a topic you have been assigned, you should check with your teacher to establish whether or not this is permitted for this assignment and ask to receive instruction in how to give proper credit in your paper.

Can I plagiarize by accident?

Yes. Occasionally, students do get confused about plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether you have plagiarized, you should talk to your teacher before you hand in your paper. If you are having trouble writing your paper, do not be tempted to plagiarize; instead, ask your teacher for additional help with the assignment.