

MORAVIAN COLLEGE  
Fall 2006  
English 101 (A): American Literature

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Comfort	OFFICE	Zinzendorf 200
PHONE	(610) 625-7977	HOURS	MW, 9-10 & by appt.
E-MAIL	memsc01@moravian.edu	PPHAC	116, 7:50-8:40 MWF
		PPHAC	116 2:30-3:20 TTH

TEXTS Perkins and Perkins. *The American Tradition in Literature*. Shorter Edition, 11th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007.  
*Bedford Handbook*: any edition, "Writing about Literature"; available in your own library, from Reeves library, or upon request from instructor. Also review sections on intentional and unintentional plagiarism.

COURSE GOALS (for instructor)

To introduce the diversity of voices that make up American literature  
To discuss historic, literary, and cultural contexts of American literature  
To encourage students to respect varied responses during class discussion  
To provide opportunities for oral presentations in small groups and in the class  
To respond thoughtfully to students' views as written in three essays  
To encourage students to welcome the delicious ambiguity of the "difficult beauty" in literature

GOALS (for students)

1. To identify and locate many American authors and their works in the American literary tradition
2. To recognize values and define themes in American literature
3. To think critically about and appreciate the complexity and diversity of serious literature
4. To enter into and continue a discussion about American literature, to compare the treatment of a single theme in several works of American literature, to analyze the literary elements of American literature to answer a specific question
5. To write essays that shape and extend this discussion, to incorporate research about literature into this writing, to incorporate American literature as support for a thesis in a personal essay
6. To understand literal meanings and consider implications in figurative meanings
7. To tolerate—perhaps to welcome--the lack of closure, the deliberate ambiguity found in complex literature

GRADES

- |                    |                                   |      |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Papers          | (3) @ 15%, 15%, & 15% each        | 45%  |
| 2. Midterm & Final | (short answer) @ 20% each         | 40 % |
| 3. Participation   | (attendance, discussion, quizzes) | 15%  |

**All grades for participation, quizzes, tests, and papers will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.**

READING AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

To understand historical context and literary movements, read the assigned works after studying the appropriate headnotes for the periods and for the authors themselves. We will not discuss all of these headnotes, but you will be responsible for them on tests. Therefore, you should ask about any parts which you find difficult to understand.

Reading schedule is tentative. Because American literature is a rich and varied source of readings, changes will be made to reflect students interests and abilities.

If for any reason you need to have special considerations, please get the appropriate documentation and see me about it as soon as possible.

Please follow the Moravian College policy on original work. Do not plagiarize.

Quizzes may not be made up. Quizzes may cover assigned readings to date and anything discussed in class. Quizzes will not be given on the day an essay is due.

Although no films are scheduled, films based on a writer's work may be substituted for the assigned reading. In that case, you will be responsible for the film. Sometimes, the filmed story will be used in addition to the reading(s). Films about the author may also supplement the readings.

Moravian, MWF 7:50-8:20

1. August 28 Introduction: Puritanism 67-69; Anne Bradstreet 69-79, Edward Taylor 105-111
2. August 30 Reason and Revolution, 155-160. Jonathan Edwards, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God 168-178
3. September 1 Benjamin Franklin 188-190, Polly Baker 229-230, Poor Richard's Almanac 222-229

~~September 4~~ Labor Day, no class meeting

4. September 6 Phillis Wheatley 280-285; Philip Freneau 286-292
5. September 8 Romantic Temper, 293-300. Washington Irving 303-313, William C Bryant, Thanatopsis 348-350
6. September 11 Transcendentalism, 362-364. Ralph Waldo Emerson "Self Reliance" 365-366, 419-435
7. September 13 Henry David Thoreau "Civil Disobedience" 545-560
8. September 15 Romanticism, 561-563, Edgar Allan Poe 563-564, "Sonnet-to Science" 566, "The Raven" 574-577, "Cask of Amontillado" 616-620

9. September 18 Nathaniel Hawthorne 626-627, Rappaccini's Daughter 668-686
10. September 20 Herman Melville 697-699, Bartleby the Scrivener 699-723
11. September 22 Humanitarian Sensibility 779-285. Frederick Douglass 874-875, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass 875-888

12. September 25 Age of Expansion 889-898, Walt Whitman 898-900, When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd 970-976 **Essay #1 due**

13. September 27 Emily Dickinson 986-1021
14. September 29 Realists and Regionalists, Mark Twain 1021, Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, How to Tell a Story 1048-1052

15. October 2 Henry James 1076-1079, The Real Thing 1134-1164

16. October 4 Midterm Exam, (covers all readings--including historical and biographical headnotes--from Puritans and Bradstreet through Dickinson)

~~October 6~~ Break, no class mtg.

~~October 9~~ Break, no class mtg.

17. October 11 Turn of the Century 1193-1199, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Revolt of Mother 1304-1314
18. October 13 Charles W. Chesnutt 1315-1316, Passing of Grandison 1316-1328

19. October 16 Edith Wharton 1352-1354, Roman Fever 1355-1362

20. October 18 Literary Renaissance 1413-1419, Robert Frost 1448-1450, Mending Wall 1452, Home Burial 1453, Road Not Taken 1458, Fire and Ice 1469, Design 1472 Directive 1473

21. October 20 T. S. Eliot 1516-1518, Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock 1524-1526, Amy Lowell 1549-1550, Patterns 1551-1552
22. October 23 Wallace Stevens 1563-1564, Sunday Morning and Anecdote of the Jar 1567-1570, William Carlos Williams 1577-1578, The Red Wheelbarrow & This is Just to say 1585-1586
23. October 25 Literature of Social and Cultural Change 1607-1616, Eugene O'Neill 1616-1618, The Hairy Ape 1619-1647
24. October 27 Claude McKay 1652-1653, America 1654; Edna St. Vincent Millay 1654-1659 **Essay #2 due**
25. October 30 Langston Hughes 1679-1685, F Scott Fitzgerald 1686-1688, Babylon Revisited 1688-1700
26. November 1 William Faulkner 1717-1720, Barn Burning 1732-1743
27. November 3 Ernest Hemingway 1744-1745, Big Two-Hearted River 1746-1750
28. November 6 The Second World War and Its Aftermath 1773-1784, Elizabeth Bishop 1848-1849, The Fish 1849, Sestina 1853, One Art 1857; Robert Hayden 1857-1858, Those Winter Sundays 1859, Gwendolyn Brooks 1865-1866, We Real Cool 1888, The Lovers of the Poor 1868
29. November 8 Robert Lowell 1871-1873, For the Union Dead 1876, Epilogue 1878
30. November 10 Ralph Ellison 1917-1918, Battle Royal 1918-1926
31. November 13 Bernard Malamud 1927, The Mourners 1928-1932
32. November 15 John Barth 1970-1971, Lost in the Funhouse 1971-1985
33. November 17 Flannery O'Connor 1955-1959, Good Country People 1956-1970
34. November 20 John Updike 1986-1987, Separating 1987-1993
- ~~November 22~~ Thanksgiving, no mtg.
- ~~November 24~~ Thanksgiving, no mtg.
35. November 27 A Century Ends and a New Millennium Begins 2031-2037; James Wright 2048-2049, A Note Left in Jimmy Leonard's Shack 2049-2050, Autumn Begins in Martin's Ferry, Ohio 2050
36. November 29 Rita Dove 2093-2094, Dusting 2095, Roast Possum 2097; Cathy song 2097-2098  
Picture Bride 2098 **Essay #3 due**
37. December 1 Tim O'Brien 2144-2145; Night March 2145-2151
38. December 4 Amy Tan 2156-2157; Half and Half 2158-2166
39. December 6 Louise Erdrich 2167-2168, The Red Convertible 2168-2173
40. December 8 Complete discussions of assigned readings, read and discuss student essays, and/or review for final
41. December 11 Complete discussions of assigned readings, read and discuss students essays, and/or review for final