

MORAVIAN COLLEGE  
Fall 2007  
English 101 A& B American Literature

Instructor- Dr. Mary Comfort  
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Office- Zinzendorf 104  
Office Hours- MWF 9:00-10:00 & by appt.  
Class Meetings MWF (English 101A- PPHAC  
117, 750-840, English 101B- PPHAC 330, 1020-1110)

TEXTS Perkins and Perkins. *The American Tradition in Literature*. Shorter “Concise” Edition, 11th edition. New York McGraw-Hill, 2007

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 model respect for 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 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, its themes and its style
5. To write essays that shape and extend this discussion, to cite research about our readings
6. To understand literal meanings and consider implications in figurative meanings
7. To tolerate—perhaps to welcome—a lack of closure, a deliberate ambiguity found in literature

GRADES Three essays @ 15% = 45%, Midterm =15%, Final = 20%, Participation = 20%

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Final grades may be lowered 1/3 (e.g., from a B- to a C+) for each absence after 3 permitted absences. Students should expect to spend 1-2 hours outside of class preparing for each hour in class.

QUIZZES may not be made up, but lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

ESSAYS Prompts for essays will be distributed within the first week of classes.

In Essay #1, offer your personal response or reaction to 1-3 readings.

In Essay #2 compare two works, focusing on character, relationships, setting, theme, or another literary element.

In Essay #3, working with a small research team, summarize a critical essay, present your findings to the class, and hand in a written summary. Sign up for an author (since Wharton) at any time on the sheet posted outside of Z-104. Submit essays *at the start of class* on the due date. (Third essay due date is the day of the reading.)

Grades on late papers may be lower. Please use 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and MLA citation and documentation format.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If you have any concerns about this course (the readings, the assignments, the instructor, the classroom, etc.), please contact me right away so we can work together to make this introduction to American literature meaningful for you.

Students wanting special considerations in terms of class management or scheduling, please submit the appropriate documentation to your instructor as soon as possible.

Please study and follow the Moravian College policy on plagiarism and original work. Submit your own work; share your own ideas.

Course grade and all grades for participation, quizzes, tests, and papers will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

READING AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE (may be changed to reflect students' interests)

August 27 Introduction to American literature, the course. Distribution of syllabus.

August 29 The Puritans (genres) - histories, (Bradford and Winthrop), elegies and other poetry  
(Bradstreet & Taylor), personal narratives (Rowlandson), and sermons (Jonathan Edwards)

August 31 Introduction to The Puritans, continued (selected poetry of Bradstreet & Taylor)

September 3 Labor Day Holiday

September 5 JONATHAN EDWARDS Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

September 7 Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) \*From The Autobiography

September 10 PHILLIS WHEATLEY (1754?-1784) To the University of Cambridge; On Being Brought from Africa to America; On the Death of the Reverend Mr. George Whitefield

September 12 WASHINGTON IRVING (1783-1859) Rip Van Winkle

September 14 RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803-1882) \*Self-Reliance

September 17 HENRY DAVID THOREAU (1817-1862) \*Civil Disobedience

September 19 ROMANTICISM EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809-1849) Sonnet--To Science; The Raven;

September 21 NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE (1804-1864) Rappaccini's Daughter **Essay # 1 due**

September 24 HERMAN MELVILLE (1819-1891) \*Bartleby the Scrivener

September 26 FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1817?-1895) \*From Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

September 28 WALT WHITMAN (1819-1892) When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd

October 1 EMILY DICKINSON (1830-1886) Be prepared to present your reading of one of these poems—in its entirety. 49 [I never lost as much but twice]; 67 [Success is counted sweetest]; 249 [Wild Nights -- Wild Nights!]; 303 [The soul selects her own Society -- ]; 328 [A Bird came down the Walk -- ]; 435 [Much Madness is divinest Sense -- ]; 478 [I had no time to Hate -- ]; 556 [The Brain, within its Groove]; 632 [The Brain -- is wider than the sky -- ]; 657 [I dwell in Possibility -- ]; 754 [My Life had stood -- a Loaded Gun -- ]; 1082 [Revolution is the Pod]; 1129 [Tell all the Truth but tell it slant -- ]; 1540 [As imperceptibly as Grief]; 1624 [Apparently with no surprise]

October 3 MARK TWAIN (1835-1910) The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County  
Review for Midterm: bring questions—in writing

October 5 Midterm Exam

October 10 HENRY JAMES (1843-1916) The Real Thing

October 12 MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN (1852-1930) The Revolt of "Mother"

October 15 CHARLES W. CHESNUTT (1858-1932) The Passing of Grandison

October 17 EDITH WHARTON (1862-1937) Roman Fever

October 19 ROBERT FROST (1874-1963) Mending Wall; Home Burial; The Road Not Taken; Fire and Ice

October 22 T. S. ELIOT (1888-1965) The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

October 24 LOWELL Patterns; STEVENS From "Sunday Morning"; Anecdote of the Jar  
**Essay #2 due**

October 26 EUGENE O'NEILL (1888-1953) \* The Hairy Ape

October 29 EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892-1950) [What Lips My Lips Have Kissed, and Where, and Why ]; [I Will Put Chaos into Fourteen Lines]; LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967) The Negro Speaks of Rivers; Harlem

October 31 F. SCOTT FITZGERALD (1896-1940) Babylon Revisited

November 2 WILLIAM FAULKNER (1897-1962) Barn Burning

November 5 ERNEST HEMINGWAY (1899-1961) Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber (handout or link provided)

November 7 ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911-1979) The Fish; One Art; ROBERT HAYDEN (1913–1980) Those Winter Sundays; GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917-2000) We Real Cool; ROBERT LOWELL (1917-1977) For the Union Dead; Epilogue; ALLEN GINSBERG (1926-1997) From "Howl"

November 9 Poetry, continued

November 12 RALPH ELLISON (1914- ) *From* Invisible Man, Chapter 1 [Battle Royal]

November 14 BERNARD MALAMUD (1914-1986) The Mourners

November 16 FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925-1964) Good Country People

November 19 JOHN BARTH (1930- ) Lost in the Funhouse

November 26 JOHN UPDIKE (1932- ) Separating

November 28 JAMES WRIGHT A Note Left in Jimmy Leonard's Shack; Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio; ADRIENNE RICH Aunt Jennifer's Tigers; RITA DOVE Dusting; Roast Possum; CATHY SONG Picture Bride; Heaven;

November 30 Poetry, continued

December 3 TIM O'BRIEN *From* Going After Cacciato, Night March

December 5 AMY TAN Half and Half

December 7 LOUISE ERDRICH The Red Convertible

December 10 Last Class: Responses to American Literature

Date for final exam will be announced. Please schedule travel and other activities with the exam week in mind.