

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

Spring 2008

English 101 A& B American Literature

Instructor- Dr. Mary Comfort Office- Zinzendorf 104

Phone- (610) 625-7977

Office Hours- M, W 10-11 & by appt.

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Class Meetings MWF (English 101A- PPHAC 232 , 750-840, English 101B- PPHAC 232, 9:10-10:00)

TEXT 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 (class discussion, quizzes, presentations, etc.) = 20%

ATTENDANCE POLICY 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 excused absences.

Students should expect to spend 2-3 hours outside of class preparing for each hour in class.

QUIZZES may be given at any time and cover all readings and discussions to date. Quizzes may *not* be made up, but lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

ESSAYS --

Essay #1, offer your personal response or reaction to 1-3 readings. Build on class discussion.

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 of the critical essay—not of the story it discusses. Sign up for an author 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.) Late papers will fail. (See instructor for exceptional circumstances requiring leniency on this policy.) Please use 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and MLA citation and documentation format for all papers.

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 for whom the traditional classroom schedule and arrangement interferes with learning should get authorization from student services for special considerations in terms of class management or scheduling. Please submit the appropriate documentation to your instructor as soon as possible.

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

GRADING 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

LECTURES AND Powerpoint Presentations: Please take notes during class. Except for special reasons, the instructor will not routinely forward powerpoint presentations and lecture notes.

January 14 Introduction to American literature, the course. Distribution of syllabus.
Sample readings of Puritan poetry.

January 16 The Puritans (genres) - histories, (Bradford and Winthrop), elegies and other poetry (Bradstreet & Taylor), and sermons (Jonathan Edwards)

January 18 Introduction to The Puritans, continued (selected poetry of Bradstreet & Taylor: read Edwards "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God")

January 21- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 23 Benjamin Franklin (from) *Autobiography*

January 25 PHILLIS WHEATLEY To the University of Cambridge; On Being Brought from Africa to America; On the Death of the Reverend Mr. George Whitefield

January 28 WASHINGTON IRVING (1783-1859) Rip Van Winkle

January 30 RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803-1882) *Self-Reliance

February 1 HENRY DAVID THOREAU (1817-1862) *Civil Disobedience

February 4 ROMANTICISM EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809-1849) Sonnet--To Science; The Raven; The Purloined Letter

February 6 NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE (1804-1864) Rappaccini's Daughter
Essay # 1 due

February 8 HERMAN MELVILLE (1819-1891) *Bartleby the Scrivener

February 11 FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1817?-1895) **From* Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

February 13 WALT WHITMAN (1819-1892) When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd

February 15 EMILY DICKINSON (1830-1886) Be prepared to present *your* reading of these poems: 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]

February 18 MARK TWAIN (1835-1910) The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, *Adventures of Huckelberry Finn*
Review for Midterm: bring questions—in writing

February 20 Midterm Exam

February 22 HENRY JAMES (1843-1916) The Real Thing

February 25 MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN (1852-1930) The Revolt of "Mother"

February 27 CHARLES W. CHESNUTT (1858-1932) The Passing of Grandison

February 29 EDITH WHARTON (1862-1937) Roman Fever

March 3 –March 7 Spring Break

March 10 ROBERT FROST (1874-1963) Mending Wall; Home Burial; The Road Not Taken; Fire and Ice

March 12 T. S. ELIOT (1888-1965) The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

March 14 LOWELL Patterns; STEVENS From “Sunday Morning”; Anecdote of the Jar
Essay #2 due

March 17 EUGENE O'NEILL (1888-1953) * The Hairy Ape

March 19 EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892-1950) [I Will Put Chaos into Fourteen Lines]; LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967) The Negro Speaks of Rivers; Harlem

March 21-March 24- Easter Recess

March 26 F. SCOTT FITZGERALD (1896-1940) Babylon Revisited

March 28 WILLIAM FAULKNER (1897-1962) Barn Burning

March 31 ERNEST HEMINGWAY (1899-1961) Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber (handout and/or link provided)

April 2 ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911-1979) The Fish; One Art; ROBERT HAYDEN (1913–1980) Those Winter Sundays; GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917-2000) We Real Cool

April 4 ROBERT LOWELL (1917-1977) For the Union Dead; Epilogue

April 7 RALPH ELLISON (1914-) *From Invisible Man*, Chapter 1 [Battle Royal]

April 9 BERNARD MALAMUD (1914-1986) The Mourners

April 11 FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925-1964) Good Country People

April 14 JOHN BARTH (1930-) Lost in the Funhouse

April 16 JOHN UPDIKE (1932-) Separating

April 18 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;

April 21 TIM O'BRIEN *From* Going After Cacciato, Night March

April 23 LOUISE ERDRICH The Red Convertible

April 25 Last Class

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