

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

Fall, 2011

English 101 A: American Literature

Instructor- Dr. Mary Comfort Office- Zinzendorf 104 Phone- (610) 625-7977

Office Hours- Wed, 9-10 & by appt. e-mail- memsc01@moravian.edu (NO ATTACHMENTS PLEASE!)

Class Meetings MWF 7:50-8:40 PPHAC 117

Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of Writing 100 or equivalent course.

TEXT Perkins . *American Tradition in Literature*. "Concise" Edition, any recent edition.

COURSE GOALS (for instructor)

- To introduce some of the many voices in 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 essays
- To encourage students to enjoy the challenges of serious literature

GOALS (for students)

1. To identify American authors, their works, and the movements they illustrate
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 strategies to create and implications of figurative meanings
7. To tolerate—even welcome—ambiguity
8. To become conversant in terminology associated with writing, including styles and movements, literary terms, and critical approaches
9. To provide a basis for advanced study of literature

GRADES Two (or three) essays (20 % each)

Midterm =20%;

Final = 20%

Participation (class discussion, quizzes, reports, etc.) 20%

TIME CONSIDERATIONS Regular and prompt attendance will protect your grade. After a single excused absence, course grade may be lowered by 1/3 grade for every hour missed.) Plan to invest 2-3 hours outside of class preparing for each hour in class (possibly more time when tests and papers are due.) Get notes from peers.

QUIZZES will not be announced & cannot be made up. Lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

ESSAYS – MLA format, minimum length: 2 ½ pages, 1 inch margins on *all* pages, *all* in 12 point font. No credit for late papers. (E-mail papers on due date if you must miss class.)

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 and so you can succeed in your endeavor.

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

Please turn off computers, cell phones, tape recorders and all other electronic and/or potentially distracting devices before entering the classroom for English 101. Keep all electronic devices turned off during the entire class.

PLAGIARISM Follow the Moravian College policy on plagiarism and original work. Submit your own work. Cheating and plagiarism will be reported and will result in failure on the assignment or in the course. Repeat offenses could result in your dismissal from Moravian College.

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

Study your class notes, scheduled readings, period introductions, & author headnotes BEFORE class for which discussion is scheduled.

This is tentative list. Discussion and interests may prompt changes. Be flexible; stay tuned. If an emergency prevents you from attending class, get updates from classmates.

Week #1: Puritan Writers: Bradstreet, Taylor, Edwards, Rowlandson

Week #2: Enlightenment Writers: Franklin, Wheatley

Week #3: American Romanticism: Emerson, Thoreau, Poe (Essay #1)

Week #4: American Romanticism: Hawthorne, Melville, Douglass

Week #5 : Romanticism: Whitman & Dickinson, Twain

Week #6: Realism: James, Freeman, Chesnut, Midterm

Week #7:Wharton, Frost, Eliot, Lowell

Week #8: Stevens, O'Neill, Millay, Hughes, Fitzgerald (Essay #2)

Week #9. Faulkner, Hemingway, Bishop, Hayden, Brooks

Week #10: Lowell, Ellison, Malamud, O'Connor (Essay #3, optional)

Week #11: Barth, Updike, Wright, Rich, Dove, Song

Week #12: O'Brien, Tan Erdrich, Final Exam

