

AUCA
Fall 2011
Syllabus ¹

Course Title: Survey of American Literature to 1865

Course Number: AMS 140

Course ID: 01779

Course Status: required

Number of credits: 3

Time: Tuesdays (room 230) and Fridays (room 316), 10:50AM – 12:05PM.

Instructor: Irina Y. Larionova, MA in English

Contact Information: Tel.: (312) 661113(241), Email: lirina@auca.kg²

Office Location: 215/1 (American Studies Department)

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Goals:

The course will examine some of the major American poets and prose writers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries writing in English, with attention to their literary and historical contexts. The focus of this course will be on writers' aesthetic responses to their world; thus we will spend most of our time attending to literary texts. Also important to our discussion will be the development of genre during the period. The course will help students develop the skills necessary for critical perception and evaluation of the readings and prepare them for more advanced courses in American literature and culture.

Course Text: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, vol. 1, 4th ed.
W.W. Norton and Company, New York, 1994.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance is *mandatory*. It will comprise 10% of your final grade.
2. No late classes.
3. You will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W in case you miss 3 classes without a good reason or come unprepared on a regular basis. This is likely to happen before **September 18**. A grade of X is also a possibility if you stop attending and never turn up or do not prepare for classes and turn in the assignments when they are due. The administrative drop with an X grade is likely to happen before **December 3**. "Incompletes" are only given at the student's request supported by sufficiently persuasive medical documents.
4. All reading assignments are *mandatory* as well as written assignments and are the responsibility of the student. You have to read the material indicated for each class *before* the class and come ready to discuss it. Late written assignments will not be accepted which will result in a lower grade.

¹ The instructor reserves the right to change some assignments and requirements depending on the individual pace, interest and progress of students. The reading assignments might be supplemented with study guides and/or additional handouts.

² My email is NOT for submitting papers and assignments; contact me by email in case of emergency or if you want to make an appointment and have no opportunity to contact me in person.

5. It is **mandatory** that you should bring in class two critical comments on each of the reading assignments and as many questions as you have (not less than two). Critical comments imply not only your reactions in terms of likes and dislikes. You should be able to provide your own interpretations of the reading materials, to compare and contrast the information from them with similar information from your own culture, draw certain parallels between characters from the readings and other literary characters that you studied in other literature courses. The comments and questions should be typed on the computer, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12. It is expected and encouraged that you use them during class discussions and turn in at the end of each class to be graded by the instructor. Comments and questions will reflect your home preparation and help you with your in-class participation which is expected to be **meaningful and active**. The comments and questions will comprise 10% of your final grade.

6. **Active** and **meaningful** participation in classroom discussions is expected and encouraged. It will add 10% to your final grade. Active participation means that you make your own comments, ask questions, listen to others attentively and express your original opinions. Please, be patient to listen to other opinions and do not get too emotional if you do not share them. Try to find convincing arguments to support your viewpoints. If you participate passively expressing your reactions non-verbally by means of smiles, nodding or some other body language, you will lose the 10%.

7. You are required to write one short paper for this course which is worth 20%. An informal topic proposal must be submitted for the topic to be approved by instructor.

Length: minimum 7 pages double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 – **3%**.

Structure: the paper must have an introduction, a clear thesis statement well developed and supported by sufficient evidence, and a thorough conclusion – **5%**.

Content: papers must analyze the sources, not summarize them. Plot summaries, quotations and paraphrases should be kept to a minimum. The text of the paper must consist mainly of *your own writing and thinking* – **5%**.

Accurate use of English is expected in terms of grammar, vocabulary and style - **4%**.

Careful documentation and good organization will also be evaluated. There must be at least **6** sources with no more than **2** online sources. **MLA** style requirements should be followed - **3%**.

The due dates for the topic proposal and paper are indicated in the daily schedule of the syllabus.

No late proposals and papers will be accepted.

8. It is **mandatory** that you should take a midterm exam and a final exam for this course. Each of the exams is worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will cover the content of text, lectures and discussions.

9. There will be a possibility for you to improve your final grade by means of preparing a bonus assignment for 10%. It could be a report on one of the authors (biography or some literary work not indicated in the list of readings). If you have other ideas or suggestions, feel free to express them as soon as possible. However, the assignment should be discussed with me at least one month before the end of the semester and done not later than 2 weeks before the end of the semester. The deadline for the bonus assignment discussion if you feel like you might need to complete it is November 9. The deadline for the bonus assignment presentation is November 26.

10. The University maintains and enforces a strict policy against academic dishonesty. .

Academic dishonesty is representing another's work as one's own, active complicity in such falsification, or violating test conditions. Plagiarism is stealing and passing off the ideas and words of another as one's own or using the work of another without crediting the source.

Prompting & cheating during classes & exams, plagiarism, using false citations, and submitting false data will result in the course failure.

Grading Policy:

Attendance - 10%

Active and Meaningful Participation in Classroom Discussions – 10%

Comments and Questions – 10%

Paper – 20%

Midterm Examination – 25%

Final Examination – 25%

The course will be graded on the following letter-grade scale:

A - 100-95 %**B+** - 89-87 %**C+** - 79-77 %**D+** - 69-67 %**A-** - 94-90 %**B** - 86-84 %**C** - 76-74 %**D** - 66-64 %**B-** - 83-80 %**C-** - 73-70 %**D-** - 63-60 %**F** – less than 60 %**Tentative Daily Schedule**

WEEK	Date	Assignments and In-Class Activities
1	August 23	Introduction to course. Syllabus and Course Requirements Discussion. Course Expectations. Textbook Presentation.
	August 26	Understanding Literature. The American Experience. Discovery. Reading Assignment 1. Pages – 8 -14 Christopher Columbus. 76 - 82 Thomas Harriot.
2	August 30	Issues in the Study of Early American Literature. Reading Assignment 2. Pages - 121-129 Introduction.
	September 2	Early American Literature. Reading Assignment 3. Pages – 129-152 William Bradford.
3	September 6	Reading Assignment 4. Pages – 188-192 Roger Williams.
	September 9	Reading Assignment 5. Pages – 199-227 Anne Bradstreet.
4	September 13	Reading Assignment 6. Pages – 276-286 Edward Taylor.
	September 16	Reading Assignment 7. Pages – 355-362 Sarah Kemble Knight.
5	September 20	Reading Assignment 8. Pages – 379-391 Jonathan Edwards.
	September 23	Reading Assignment 9. Pages – 440- 448 Benjamin Franklin.
6	September 27	Reading Assignment 10. Pages – 487-536 Benjamin Franklin.
	September 30	Reading Assignment 11. Pages – 537-550 Benjamin Franklin.
7	October 4	Reading Assignment 11. Pages – 550-600 Benjamin Franklin.
	October 7	Reading Assignment 12. Pages – 681- 706 John and Abigail Adams.
8	October 11 (<i>due date for the informal topic proposal</i>)	Reading Assignment 13. Pages – 726-743 Thomas Jefferson. Discussion of informal paper topic proposals.
	October 14	Midterm Exam.
9	October 17 – 21	Fall Break, No Classes
10	October 25	American Literature 1820-1865. Reading Assignment 14. Pages – 879-893 Introduction. 893-909 Washington Irving.
	October 28	Reading Assignment 15. Pages – 989-1009 Ralph Waldo Emerson.

11	November 1	Reading Assignment 16. Pages – 1009- 1021 Ralph Waldo Emerson.
	November 4	Reading Assignment 17. Pages – 1169-1186 Nathaniel Hawthorne.
12	November 8 <i>(deadline for the bonus assignment discussion³)</i>	Reading Assignment 18. Pages – 1396-1406 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
	November 11	Reading Assignment 19. Pages – 1430-1435, 1447-1450 Edgar Allan Poe.
13	November 15	Reading Assignment 20. Pages – 1587- 1605 Margaret Fuller.
	November 18	Reading Assignment 21. Pages – 1672-1678 Henry David Thoreau.
14	November 22	Reading Assignment 22. Pages –1704-1719 Henry David Thoreau.
	November 25 <i>(deadline for the bonus assignment presentation⁴)</i>	Reading Assignment 23. Pages – 1930-1961 Frederick Douglass.
15	November 29	Reading Assignment 24. Pages – 2027-2090 Walt Whitman.
	December 2 <i>(due date of the paper)</i>	Reading Assignment 25. Pages – 2191-2200, 2220-2234 Herman Melville.
16	December 6	Reading Assignment 26. Pages – 2437-2479 Emily Dickinson.
	December 9	Writing poetry ‘a la Dickinson’.
17	December 13	Final Exam. This is not a cumulative exam. It will include the materials discussed in the second half of the semester starting from week 10.

³ We will not have this discussion in the classroom. You should make an appointment with me and we’ll discuss the issue in the office.

⁴ I expect 10-minute presentations of the results of your research.