

Chaminade University  
EN 314: Backgrounds in American Literature  
Fall AEOP 2012

Syllabus

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Course Description

Foundational study of representative American literature from the 17th century to the present. Required for English majors. *Offered annually. Prerequisite: Any 200-level English offering.*

Required Text

The following text is required for this course and is available at the campus bookstore. If you choose to purchase your text from another source, please be sure to order the specific edition listed below.

- Lauter, Paul, ed. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature* (Concise Edition). ISBN: 978-0-618-25663-1

Course Objectives

- To improve critical reading and writing skills developed in the 200-level literature courses.
- To demonstrate familiarity with the elements of fiction and the literary terms used to discuss them.
- To demonstrate an ability to read and analyze literary works using the elements of fiction.
- To define various literary critical approaches and use them to analyze literary texts.
- To demonstrate the ability to situate literary texts within their socio-historical contexts.
- To demonstrate a knowledge of the multiple genres of literature.
- To develop the skills necessary to participate in class discussions on literary texts.
- To demonstrate the ability to write unified, coherent, well-developed essays about literary works.

- To demonstrate the ability to conduct library research on literary texts and related secondary sources, culminating in the successful completion of a research-based literary essay.

## Course Requirements

### *Required Assignments*

You are required to complete the following components of the course in order to earn a passing grade:

Essay 1 (1500 words)	15%
Essay 2 (2000 words)	25%
Weekly Response Papers	20%
Weekly Participation in Discussion Forums	20%
Final Exam	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *E-mail Communication*

I check my email at least once a day Monday through Friday. Please allow up to 24 hours for my response to your email.

### *Essays*

You are required to write two formal essays for this course. The first 1500-word essay will be due by the end of Week 5, and the second 2000-word essay will be due by the end of Week 10. A detailed assignment sheet will be provided for each essay.

### *Weekly Response Papers*

Each student is required to write a weekly response paper based on the week's reading assignments. In these short, 300-word papers, you will be expected to share your initial impressions of and reactions to our readings. This is the place to make connections to previous readings that we have studied and discussed, to raise questions concerning the form, content, and historical context of the readings, and to relate the readings to your own personal experience. You may also use your weekly response papers to experiment with creative responses to our readings. My hope is that these response papers will provide you with an informal writing space to try out ideas that you might decide to more fully develop in your formal essays.

### *Participation / Attendance*

Since this is an online class, students are required to regularly participate by posting comments to the discussion forums presented in the course outline. Each student's first posting should be a direct response to the discussion question itself; it should be an original response based on the student's individual understanding of the question. Follow-up postings should consist of reactions to other students' postings; students are expected to post at least one follow-up response for each week's discussion question. Students should keep in mind that the best responses often culminate in the assertion of further topical questions.

Participation in online discussions and submission of other assignments will constitute attendance in this class. Consequently, failure to regularly participate in discussions or submit assignments in a timely way will constitute absence. Because the online environment provides considerable latitude in terms of when and where attendance takes place, there is no distinction between in this course between excused and unexcused absence. All students are expected to participate in a timely way. The instructor reserves the right to penalize students for late submission of assignments. If extensions of due dates are necessary, students are advised to email the instructor prior to due dates in order to request extensions.

Consistent with University policies, students who do not participate in the course for two consecutive weeks may be administratively dropped from the course.

### *Final Exam*

Each student is required to take a proctored final exam at the end of the course. Details to follow.

### *Academic Honesty*

*“Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.*

*Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism.*

*Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of the Academic Division and may range from an 'F' grade for the work in question to an 'F' for the course to suspension or dismissal from the University.”*  
(excerpted from the Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012)

### *Accusations of Plagiarism or other forms of Academic Dishonesty*

*“Plagiarism is the offering of work of another as one's own. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may include, but is not limited to, the following:*

- 1. Complete or partial copying directly from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgment to the author. Minor changes in wording or syntax are not sufficient to avoid charges of plagiarism. Proper acknowledgment of the source of a text is always mandatory.*
- 2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper author acknowledgment.*
- 3. Submitting as one's own original work (however freely given or purchased) the original exam, research paper, manuscript, report, computer file, or other assignment that has been prepared by another individual.*

*In the cases of alleged academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism, cheating, claiming work not done by the student, or lying) where a faculty member observes or discovers the dishonesty, the faculty members may choose to confront the student and handle the matter between the faculty member and the student, or the faculty member may choose to refer the incident to the Dean or Graduate Program Director. (If the Dean or the Director is the instructor in question, the concern should be directed to the Associate Provost; if the Associate Provost is the instructor in question, the concern should be directed to the Executive Vice President and Provost.) If the faculty member chooses to confront the situation and it is not satisfactorily resolved between the faculty member and the student, the matter may then be referred or appealed to the Dean or Director.*

*In either case, the Dean or Graduate Program Director may choose to resolve the matter through a meeting with both the student and the faculty member, or refer the matter to the Executive Vice President and Provost. The findings, in either case, are final.”*  
(excerpted from the Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012)

To sum up, plagiarism and/or cheating is a serious offense which may result in an “F” grade for the work in question, an “F” for the course, and suspension or dismissal from the University.

### *Writing Standards*

All work submitted by Chaminade University students is expected to meet the following writing standards:

1. Written assignments should use correctly the grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure of Standard Written English.
2. Written assignments should develop ideas, themes, and main points coherently and concisely.
3. Written assignments should adopt modes and styles appropriate to their purpose and audience.
4. Written assignments should be clear, complete, and effective.

5. Written assignments containing material and ideas drawing upon sources should carefully analyze and synthesize that material. In addition, the sources of the borrowed material must be correctly acknowledged to avoid plagiarism.

### *Grading Policy*

- “A” Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative (90-100).
- “B” Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner (80-89).
- “C” Average grade indicating competent grasp of subject matter (70-79).
- “D” Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work (60-69).
- “F” Failed to grasp minimum subject matter; no credit given (0-59).

### Overview of Course Schedule

(subject to change)

Week 1: Colonial Period to 1700

Week 2: Eighteenth Century

Week 3: Early Nineteenth Century: 1800-1865 (Part 1)

Week 4: Early Nineteenth Century: 1800-1865 (Part 2)

Week 5: Late Nineteenth Century: 1865-1910

Week 6: Modern Period: 1910-1945 (Part 1)

Week 7: Modern Period: 1910-1945 (Part 2)

Week 8: Modern Period: 1910-1945 (Part 3)

Week 9: Contemporary Period: 1945 to the Present (Part 1)

Week 10: Contemporary Period: 1945 to the Present (Part 2)