

Chaminade University of Honolulu  
EN 314: Backgrounds in American Literature  
PACE, Fall 2015  
Syllabus

Instructor: Justin Wyble  
E-mail: justin.wyble@chaminade.edu

Course Description

Foundational study of representative American literature from the 17th century to the present. Required for English majors.

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

Learning Outcomes

- 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. (PLO 3)
- To demonstrate the ability to situate literary texts within their socio-historical contexts. (PLO 4)
- To demonstrate a knowledge of the multiple genres of literature. (PLO 5)
- 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. (PLO 1)
- 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. (PLO 1)

## Course Requirements

### *Required Assignments*

Essay 1 (1500 words)	15%
Essay 2 (2000 words)	25%
Weekly Response Papers	20%
Weekly Discussion Forums	20%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

**\* English majors should save graded copies of their essays in all English classes, insofar as a subset of these essays will be required for the Senior Seminar portfolio in EN 499.**

### *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 responses 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.

### *Weekly Discussion Forums*

Each student is required to participate in our weekly discussion forums. First, you will post a direct response to the topic/question of the week's discussion forum. Once you have posted your response, you are then required to respond to at least one of your classmates' posts.

## Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you want to speak to a confidential source you may contact the following:

- Chaminade Counseling Center | [808 735-4845](tel:8087354845).

- Any priest serving as a sacramental confessor or any ordained religious leader serving in the sacred confidence role.

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)