

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY - Holy Family - Spring 2003  
Syllabus

**Course:** Backgrounds in American Literature, EN 314<sup>70</sup>  
**Meeting Dates/Times:** 11 APR - 13 JUN F: 1530 - 2140 hours  
**Instructor:** Janis Marchant E-mail: jlmarchant@yahoo.com

**Texts:** The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter 5th ed.

**Course Synopsis:** A survey of American Literature from the founding of America in 1492 to the present.

**Objective:** To introduce one to a comprehensive study of American literature, focusing on the characteristics of various genres and works, the interpretation of this literature, and the application of literary concepts to enhance one's understanding of literature and to appreciate the value of this study of literature in gaining insight into human experience, the attitudes and ideas of Americans during various periods in America's history, the American culture, and one's own personal and community values.

**Course Requirements:** Reading of the assigned material is essential for contributory, thoughtful discussion. Notetaking is also ESSENTIAL. Attendance is essential for notetaking, class discussion, and possible in-class assignments. Absence (except in extraordinary circumstances) is not considered a legitimate excuse for late submission of assigned work. Late work will be accepted during the class immediately following its due date and may be automatically lowered two grades.

**Grading:**

Attendance/Class Participation in discussion	15%
In-class report	15%
Exams (2)	20% ea
8-10 page (text) MLA-format research paper	30%

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

APR	11	Introduction Discussion of American Literature to 1620  <i>Reading Assignment-next class: 77-106; 126-66; 171-86; 200-211</i>
	25	Literature 1620 -1820 Bradford; Bradstreet; Rowlandson; Taylor; Edwards  <i>Reading Assignment-next class: 211-269; 285-329; 342-70</i>
MAY	2	1620 -1820 cont'd. Franklin; Occom; De Crevecoeur; Paine; Jefferson; Freneau; Wheatley  <i>Reading Assignment - next class: 409-58; 470-77; 484-525; 550-67</i>
	9	Literature 1820 -1865 Irving; Cooper; Cherokee Memorials; Bryant; Child; Emerson  <i>Reading Assignment - next class: 584-87; 613-22; 630-704; 707-08; 717-52; 760-64</i>

- 16 1820 -1865 cont'd.  
Hawthorne; Longfellow; Whittier; Poe; Lincoln  
  
*Reading Assignment - next class: 826-67; 910-20; 967-1019; 1032-37; 1049-55; 1100-34; 1190-1211*
- 23 1820 -1865 cont'd.  
Jacobs; Thoreau; Douglass; Whitman; Melville; Dickinson  
  
*Reading Assignment - next class: 1241-64; 1457-65; 1486-88; 1491-1533; 1603-19; 1656-69; 1702-20; 1774-87*  
  
*Exam*
- 30 Literature 1865 -1914  
Clemens; Cochise; James; Chopin; Gilman; Crane; Bonnin  
  
*Reading Assignment - next class: 1799-1860; 1868-72; 1885-90; 1899-1901; 1919-36; 2040-46; 2069-72; 2108-13; 2155-57; 2175-87; 2205-30*
- JUN 6 Literature 1914 -1945  
Black Elk; Robinson; Cather; Lowell; Frost; Sandburg; Stevens; Williams; Pound; Eliot; McKay; Cummings; Faulkner; Hemingway; Hughes  
  
*Reading Assignment - next class: 2231-56; 2261-82; 2358-85; 2390-2418; 2511-29; 2567-69*  
  
*Exam*
- 13 Literature 1914 - 1945 cont'd.  
Steinbeck, Cullen, Wright  
  
Prose since 1945  
Welty; Ellison; Bellow; Baldwin; O'Connor; Kingston; Walker; Cisneros  
  
*Reading Assignment - next class: 2581-2605; 2624-35; 2660-65; 2728-38; 2747-54*
- 20 Poetry since 1945  
Warren; Roethke; Hayden; Jarrell; Brooks; Rich; Snyder; Plath  
  
Research Paper Due