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**English 331 (01)**

**American Writers: Early Americans to the Civil War**

**M,W,F 11:00-11:50**

**Fall 2001**

**Instructor: Koreen Nakahodo**

**Office Hours: T 10:00-10:50, F 10:00-10:50 or by appointment.**

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**Office Number: 735-4863**

**Course Description**

This is a survey course of American Literature through 1865. This course includes works by Bradstreet, Taylor, Franklin, Hawthorne, Melville, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, and Dickinson.

**Course Objectives**

At the successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- ♦ Identify works by major American authors from 1620-1820
- ♦ Identify major themes in American Literature
- ♦ Identify specific passages from Bradstreet, Taylor, Franklin, Hawthorne, Melville, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, and Dickinson.

**Required Texts**

*Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. 1

*Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition by Hairston, Ruxzkiewicz, and Friend.

**Required Extras**

Access to a computer, word processor, or typewriter (all papers must be typed)

**Student Responsibilities**

*Class Attendance*

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Students are responsible for making up work assigned during their absence from class.

*Unexcused Absences*

Your final grade may be affected for each unexcused absence.

*Excused Absences*

An excused absence must be documented, signed, and dated by a physician and approved by the instructor. Excused absences will be decided on a case by case basis.

## **Student Responsibilities**

### **Tardiness**

Excessive tardiness may result in a grade deduction. If a student is more than 5 minutes late for class, he/she will be marked as tardy.

### **Late Work**

Late papers will receive a grade deduction. Late papers will lose 10% of the final grade for every day that the paper is late. Papers over a week late will receive a '0' (F).

### **Class Behavior**

In class you are free to respectfully express your opinions. Class members who do not adhere to this rule will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked absent (unexcused) for the day.

Students are asked to turn off all electronic devices (cell phones) before entering the classroom. Talking on the phone during lectures or class discussions is unacceptable. Students will be asked to leave the class and will be marked as absent (unexcused) for the day.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own. The guidelines for plagiarism are on page 50 of the student handbook. They include, but are 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 acknowledgement (citation) of the source is always mandatory.
2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper acknowledgement.
3. Submitting the work prepared by another as one's own. (Chaminade Student Handbook, 50).

Any student caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the course.

## **Grading Breakdown**

Midterms (2)	30%
Papers (3)	30%
Research Project/Service Learning	20%
Final Exam	15%
Class Participation/Assignments	5%

## **Grading Scale**

- 'A' Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.
- 'B' Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner.
- 'C' Average grade indicating competent grasp of subject matter.
- 'D' Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work.
- 'F' Failed to grasp minimum subject matter; no credit given.

## **Papers**

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Students must also use Times New Roman 12 pt font. All late papers will be subject to a grade deduction.

## **Research Project and Presentation**

Complete a research paper on a major American Writer. Include a brief biography of the writer as well as an in-depth analysis of the major themes that emerge from at least 10 of the writer's works. Prior to beginning the project, the instructor must approve your selections. Although quality is preferable to quantity, the project should be 10-15 pages in length. The paper must include a work's cited page and proper documentation. An oral presentation must also be completed and will account for 10% of the final project grade.

## **Service Learning**

Members of the class who would like to participate in the Service Learning project should see the instructor for further handouts and details.

## **Assignment #1**

Write me a letter that includes the following:

1. A summary of the course;
2. Your understanding of the plagiarism policy for this course;
3. Your understanding of the attendance policy for this course;
4. Your understanding of the phrase "respect for others";
5. Your understanding of the late paper policy;
6. A reaction to the syllabus;
7. Questions about the course;
7. At the end of the letter include the following sentence:  
"I have read the policies and procedures outlined in this syllabus."
8. Sign and date the letter.

Please type the letter and turn it in at the beginning of the next class period.