

Anoka Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids Campus
English 2230: American Literature I: Beginnings to 1865
Fall 2000 / Section 1

Professor: Scott Stankey
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Office Hours:

- M, W, Th, F / 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- M / 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- By appointment

Class Meetings:

- 1:00-1:50 p.m. / M, W, F in _____

Course Description:

The focus for this course will be the literature of the United States from its beginnings to the Civil War. More specifically, we will cover important authors and works from the Colonial Period (c.a. 1600-1720), the Age of Reason and Revolution (c.a. 1720-1820), and the Romantic Period (c.a. 1820-1865). We will also consider some of the historical, social, and political forces that shaped the literature of these periods and our perceptions of it. Readings will include a variety of genres—autobiography, journals, diaries, essays, sermons, poetry, and fiction—and works from writers of different genders, races, and religions will be included for a more comprehensive view of “American literature.” As we read, we will look at four major concerns of human beings as these ideas have been expressed in American literature—the person in relation to the self, to society, to nature, and to the supernatural. Our goal will be to discover how a variety of people of different backgrounds and philosophies have expressed their thoughts and feelings on these subjects.

Textbook and Materials:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (shorter 5th edition, 1999)
- Access to the course website: <www.ar.cc.mn.us/stankey>
- Access to the textbook website: <www.wwnorton.com/naal>

Requirements:

- Attendance at all class sessions. Each class session will be primarily devoted to discussing the assigned literature.
- Completion of all assigned readings. The average daily reading load is 20-30 pages.

- Participation in all class discussions. Based on previous classes, readers understand, enjoy, and appreciate the assigned literature more once they have had a chance to discuss it with others. Bring your ideas, opinions, and questions, and be prepared and willing to share them with the rest of us; both the quality and quantity of your participation will be considered.
- Completion of all five in-class examinations. The exams may include identification, short answer, and essay questions.
- Completion of both critical essays. Each essay will be based on the literature assigned and will be 3-4 pages (700-1000 words) in length.
- Completion of unannounced reading quizzes and responses. Quizzes will normally include 10 short-answer questions; responses will normally be about one paragraph long. Unannounced quizzes and in-class writing cannot be made up if you are absent.

Evaluation:

Your final course grade will be calculated based on your five examinations, your two critical essays, any in-class responses and quizzes, and your class participation; each component is weighted equally.

Policies and Information

Attendance: Please notify me immediately if you must miss class due to a medical or family emergency; we can then keep you current with the class or determine if an incomplete is warranted. Note that excessive absences will adversely affect your final grade.

Incompletes: Incompletes will only be granted to students who have a documented medical or family emergency in the last two weeks of the semester. These students must have completed all the other work for the course with an average grade of “C” or better, must not have excessive absences, and must demonstrate the ability and willingness to complete the work before the third week of the following semester or summer session.

Plagiarism: Knowingly presenting another person’s ideas or writing as your own without clear, correct, and accurate citation and documentation will result in an “F” for that assignment and notification of the appropriate college officials—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Class Disruptions: Any disruptive behavior, including arriving late or leaving early, which adversely affects the teaching and learning in this class will be handled on an individual basis and, if serious enough, may involve the dean of educational services—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Paper Trails: For each essay you submit, you should also collect all the work you did in the process of writing the essay—all your prewriting, in-class writing, photocopies and/or printouts of research sources, notes, outlines, and drafts. If I ask you to submit these things in support of your essay and you can not produce them, I might assume the essay is not your own work, and the essay will fail.

Paper Format: All final drafts must be double-spaced, word-processed, and conform to the formatting directions given in class, including instructions for in-text and end-of-text citation and documentation conventions.

Late Papers: Due dates are listed on the course schedule. Late final drafts will not receive written comments and the grade will be lowered one letter; after one week, the grade will be an “F.” However, all essays and exams must be completed to pass the course.

Record Keeping: Please make back-up copies of all your work, and keep all essays and exams returned to you. If questions about grades arise, you will need to produce the original documents.

Conferences: Please see me during my office hours or schedule an appointment with me if you have questions or problems at any time during the semester.

Academic Support Center: The Academic Support Center (ASC), located on the second floor of the College Services (CS) building, offers free, trained writing tutors who work with student writers at any stage in the writing process to improve their writing. Please meet with a writing tutor early in the term so that you can discover how helpful the tutors can be to you.

Note: The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change, and changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for any changes in deadlines or assignments announced during any class you miss.