

Anoka Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids Campus
English 2230: American Literature I: Beginnings to 1865
Fall 2001 / Section 1

Professor:	Scott Stankey	Office Hours:	M, T, W, F – 11:00-12:00
Office:	Humanities 131		M – 2:00-3:00
Phone:	763-422-3556 (voice mail)		Other times by appointment
Fax:	763-422-3341		
Email:	stankesc@an.cc.mn.us		

Class Meetings:

- 1:00-1:50 p.m. on M, W, F in B 206

Textbook, Materials, Websites:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (Volume I, 5th edition, 1999)
- A class notebook or loose-leaf paper
- Two 2-pocket folders
- A 3 ½” HD computer disk
- A college-level dictionary
- A stapler
- Course Website: <www.ar.cc.mn.us/stankey>
- Textbook Website: <www.wwnorton.com/naal>

Course Description:

English 2230 is the first of two American Literature “survey” courses and is organized around three major time periods: 1607-1720 (the Colonial Age), 1720-1820 (the Age of Reason and Revolution), and 1820-1865 (the Romantic Age). For each of these periods, we will begin by exploring the nonfiction – the histories, journals, autobiographies, essays, sermons, and speeches – to get a sense of what life was like at that time and to see what events and “issues” the people were concerned about. We will then explore the poetry and fiction of each period to see how writers responded “creatively” to their everyday events, issues, and concerns.

Course Objectives:

- To read, discuss, analyze, and interpret selected works of American literature from approximately 1607 to 1865.
- To understand the literary trends and characteristics of the Colonial Age, the Age of Reason and Revolution, and the Romantic Age.
- To understand the important historical events and socio-political movements from the 1600’s to the Civil War (c.a. 1860-1865).
- To understand how the selected works of American literature studied reflect the characteristics and values of the people and times in which they were written.

- To present – through activities such as group discussions, journals, response papers, critical essays, reviews, and examinations – personal interpretations and evaluations of the selected works of American literature.
- To appreciate the ways in which literature helps us understand ourselves, other people, and the world around us.

Requirements:

- Completion of all assigned readings. The average reading load is 20-30 pages per class session.
- Attendance at all class sessions. Each class session will be primarily devoted to discussing the assigned literature. If you do not attend, you cannot learn from and participate in the class discussions.
- Participation in all class discussions. This is not a lecture course; instead, we will use small groups and/or class discussions during each class session. In addition, the class will be more meaningful and enjoyable if we all participate in discussions. Participation includes active listening, note taking, and sharing your ideas, opinions, and questions with the rest of us – both the quantity and quality of your participation will be considered. If you miss more than six (6) class meetings, the participation portion of your final grade will be an “F.”
- Completion of weekly, unannounced reading quizzes and responses. Quizzes will normally include 10 short-answer questions; responses will normally be about one paragraph long. Unannounced quizzes and responses cannot be made up if you are absent or arrive late.
- Completion of all four in-class essay examinations. Exams will most likely include two (2) longer essay questions.
- Completion of one critical essay. The essay will be based on the literature assigned and will be 4-5 pages in length. Since you will be expected to demonstrate significant planning and revision for the essay, you will also submit a writing portfolio which should contain all the work you did in the process of writing the essay—all your planning notes, outlines, and drafts. If a complete and acceptable portfolio does not accompany the essay, the essay grade will be lowered one letter.

Evaluation:

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

Other Policies and Information

Attendance: Please notify me immediately if you must miss more than one 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 more than six (6) absences, and must demonstrate the ability and willingness to complete the work before the third week of the following semester or summer session.

Class Disruptions: Any disruptive behavior—including arriving late, leaving early, having private conversations, eating, sleeping, receiving cell phone calls or pages, etc.—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.

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 Dean of Educational Services—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

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 Work: Dates for the exams and paper are listed on the course schedule. Missed exams can only be made up under extraordinary circumstances and must be arranged in advance. Late papers will not receive written comments and the grade will be lowered one letter; after one week, the grade will be an “F.” However, all exams and essays 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.