

Anoka Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids Campus
English 2230: American Literature I: Beginnings to 1865
Fall Semester 2002 / Section 1

Professor: Scott Stankey
Office: Humanities 131
Phone: 763-422-3556 (voice mail)
Fax: 763-422-3341
Email: scott.stankey@anokaramsey.edu

Office Hours: M, W, Th, F – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
M – 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Class Meetings:

- Section 1 – 1:00-1:50 p.m. / M, W, F in B 208

Textbook, Materials, Websites:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (Package 1; Volumes A and B; 6th edition; 2002)
- A class notebook or loose-leaf paper
- A college-level dictionary
- Course Website: <www.ar.cc.mn.us/stankey>
- Textbook Website: <www.wwnorton.com/naal>

Course Description:

This course focuses on American literature from its beginnings (c.a. 1600) to approximately 1865. Readings may include autobiographies, journals, sermons, and essays, as well as poetry and fiction. Students will gain a sense of the historical and cultural significance of the literature and will analyze, interpret, and evaluate the literary works.

In this section of English 2230, instead of “surveying” the literature of early America using the traditional chronological or thematic approaches, we will group and explore the literature according to three of the major “genres” or types of writing: nonfiction (autobiographies, histories, journals, diaries, sermons, speeches, essays), poetry, and fiction – we will devote roughly a third of the course to each genre. Hopefully, we will gain a sense of how the writing in each genre not only develops and evolves over time, but also helps us to understand the major issues confronting writers between 1600 and 1865.

Course Objectives:

- Read, discuss, analyze, and interpret selected works of American literature from its beginnings to approximately 1865.
- Understand the literary trends and characteristics of the Colonial Period, the Age of Reason and Revolution, and the Romantic Period.
- Place selected American authors within one or more literary movements.
- Understand the important historical events and socio-political movements from the 1600’s to the 1860’s.
- Understand how the selected works of American literature studied reflect the characteristics and values of the people and times in which they were written.

- Analyze and discuss specific works of literature using appropriate literary terminology to describe the technical elements of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
- Select and apply a critical approach to interpret, analyze, and evaluate selected works of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
- 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.
- Appreciate the ways in which literature helps us understand ourselves, other people, and the world around us.

Requirements:

- Completion of all assigned readings before each class. The reading load averages 30 pages per class session – keep up with the reading!
- 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 – bring your text and notebook to each class session.
- 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 contributing to group work and class discussions. Be prepared and willing to share your ideas, opinions, and questions with the rest of us. Perfect attendance without voluntary participation will earn a “C” for the participation portion of your final grade. 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 other informal exercises. Quizzes will normally include 10 identification or short-answer questions; in-class writings will normally be one paragraph long. Quizzes and in-class exercises cannot be made up if you are absent or arrive late; in addition, you may not come to class, take a quiz, and then leave early.
- Completion of six (6) in-class essay examinations. A typical exam consists of two longer-essay questions asking you to analyze and synthesize the works we’ve studied. The exams may also include an objective, matching section (authors, terms, quotations); it is also possible that an exam may have several shorter-essay questions in place of one longer essay.

Evaluation:

- Participation 20%
- Quizzes and Exercises 20%
- Six Essay Examinations 60%

Other Policies and Information

Attendance: Note that more than six (6) absences will adversely affect your final grade. Please notify me immediately if you must miss more than one class due to a medical emergency or a family crisis; we can then keep you current with the class or determine if an incomplete is warranted. If you must miss a class where an exam is scheduled or a paper is due, please notify me before class if possible, otherwise as soon after class as possible – documentation will be required in such circumstances.

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, packing up or 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.

Late Work: Dates for the exams are listed on the course schedule. An exam can be rescheduled only under extraordinary circumstances and must be arranged before the exam; an exam not rescheduled prior to the exam will be penalized one letter grade. All exams must be completed to pass the course.

Record Keeping: Please make back-up copies of all your work, and keep all exams and other work returned to you. If questions about grades arise, you will need to produce the original documents. In addition, keep track of all your notes and other materials for each exam; if questions about plagiarism arise, you will need to prove you did your own writing.

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.