



## **ENGLISH 355: AMERICAN TEXTS (EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY)**

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<b>Pilot</b>	pilot.wright.edu
<b>Prerequisites</b>	ENG 2100

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

English 355 surveys representative works of American literature from the early 1800s to the Civil War. This period includes the historical and artistic phenomenon widely known as the “American Renaissance” during which authors first began to assert themselves on the international literary scene. It includes authors often described either as Romantics (Irving, Poe, Hawthorne) or Transcendentalists (Emerson, Thoreau). Written texts will be studied as literary and historical documents. The goal of English 355 is to critically engage students with textual analysis while providing a broader scope of the formation of a distinct American literary voice.

### **TEXTBOOK**

Krupat, Arnold and Robert S. Levine, eds. *The Norton Anthology to American Literature: Volume B (1820-1865)*. Seventh Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Course grades will be based on the following percentages:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Assignments and Quizzes	20%
Discussions	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Essay	30%

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is an essential part of this writing intensive, discussion-oriented course. It is expected that you will come to each class period prepared for the day's activities; when you do not show up, or when you show up unprepared, the quality of the class's labor suffers. As we will only meet

in person once or twice a week, it is important that you attend class, barring any unforeseen illnesses, family emergencies, religious observances, etc. More than ONE absence will negatively affect your grade. You are responsible for all assignments given during a class period you miss.

## **PARTICIPATION**

This includes in-class and online dialogue, activities, and responsive listening. Participation is crucial. Simply showing up for class does not constitute participation. You are expected to present your informed ideas and show respect for others in the classroom. Participation constitutes mental and verbal attendance. You will be graded on how much you contribute to the learning environment of each class session.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES**

Throughout the quarter, you will be given a number of assignments to be completed both in and out of the classroom. In-class assignments will generally not be given ahead of time; they will be issued during class and are to be completed during that class session. If you are absent, you will not be able to make up those assignments. Quizzes will be given periodically to ensure that the reading schedule is being followed. They will be administered at the beginning of class. If you are absent or tardy on a day that a quiz is administered, you will not be able to make it up.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

There will be several online discussions conducted via Pilot. Each discussion will include a writing prompt about a recent reading that you will be expected to address in detail.

## **MIDTERM EXAM**

This is an in-class writing exam for which you will be asked to discuss the literature studied during weeks 1-5. A writing prompt will be given to you at the beginning of the class session. The optimum way to study for the exam is to reread assigned texts and, most importantly, review the notes you take during lectures and discussions.

## **FINAL ESSAY**

Your last writing assignment for the course is a literary essay that is 1000-1500 words. It should be based upon the ideas developed in our discussions and assignments as well as your own research and insights. You are responsible for developing your own topic and choosing one or two texts to analyze. Final essays must be distinguished by the following: MLA style; an imaginative, substantive title; an argumentative thesis; a minimum of EIGHT citations from primary texts; a minimum of SIX secondary sources; and a bibliography.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: [1] copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; [2] paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; [3] turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to

submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If established with sufficient evidence, it can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC)



The Student Success Center offers FREE services to help students meet their full potential. Students can find tutoring in any subject, study buddies, one-on-one technology workshops, feedback on writing assignments, and basic academic skills coaching. Web: [lake.wright.edu/ssc](http://lake.wright.edu/ssc). Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews**.

### OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, it is essential that he or she discuss it with the instructor and the Office of Disability Services before or during the first week of the semester. ODS will work with these students on an individual basis to determine what services, equipment and accommodations would be appropriate regarding their documented needs. Students who qualify for these types of service should initiate contact with the instructor and/or ODS as soon as possible to enable the university to meet their needs. Please call Deanna Springer at **419.586.0366** or email her at [deanna.springer@wright.edu](mailto:deanna.springer@wright.edu). For more information, visit the ODS in **182 Andrews**.

### LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (LTC)

The Library and Technology Center provides free access to scholarly resources in all formats. Students can also visit the LTC for assistance with creating or editing multimedia projects (i.e., PowerPoint, Voiceovers, Website development, etc.). Phone: **419.586.8400**. Location: **197A Andrews Hall**.

### CLASS CALENDAR

Here is a weekly breakdown of readings and screenings. Descriptions for assignments are available on Pilot.

- 1 Introduction to the Course  
Introduction to Norton Anthology: American Literature (1820-1865)
- 2 Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"  
William Cullent Bryant, "Thanatopsis" and "The Prairies"
- 3 William Apess, "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man"  
Edgar Allen Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Philosophy of Composition"
- 4 FILM: *House of Usher*
- 5 Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," "Self-Reliance" and "Thoreau"  
Margaret Fuller, *The Great Lawsuit* (Selection)

- 6 Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" and *Walden*  
Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" and "The Birth-Mark"
- 7 FILM: *The Scarlet Letter*
- 8 Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"  
Fanny Fern, Select Essays
- 9 Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- 10 Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself"