

Dr. Julie Hall
English 472: The American Renaissance: American Literature, 1820-1865
Fall 2007
MWF: 1-2:00; Evans 351

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The American Renaissance: American Literature, 1800-1865

Required Text:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume B only, Seventh edition.

Course Description:

This course is an intensive study of literary production in the U.S. from 1820 to 1865, a period variously termed the American Renaissance or the American Romantic period. Comprising the literary works to be studied will be examples from various genres, many of which came into their own in this period: the short story, the novel, poetry, non-fiction, and the slave narrative. Authors to be read include the following: Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Herman Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman, and Emily Dickinson. Credit hours: 3. Prerequisites: 15 hours of English

Course Objectives:

This course has several primary objectives:

- 1) To broaden students' understanding and appreciation of intellectual activity (literature).
- 2) To develop specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field.
- 3) To strengthen skills in oral and written expression, and critical reading.
- 4) To increase factual knowledge of American literature of this period.

Assignments:

(Note: This syllabus is a **projected one**: changes will occur during the course of the semester)

Week 1

Aug. 20: Introduction to the course

Aug. 22: Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle"

Aug. 24: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"

Week 2

Aug. 27: "The Tell-Tale Heart," "Ligeia"

Aug. 29: Poe's poetry: "The Raven," "Annabel Lee," "Sonnet-To Science"

Aug. 31: Nathaniel Hawthorne

Week 3

September 3: **Labor Day Holiday**

September 5: Hawthorne

September 7: Hawthorne

Week 4

September 10: Hawthorne

September 12: Hawthorne

September 14: Reading/research day

Week 5:

September 17: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self Reliance"

September 19: Henry David Thoreau, from *Walden*, "Where I Lived and What I Lived For," and "Reading"

September 21: Thoreau

Week 6

September 24: Margaret Fuller, from *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
Assign the paper

September 26: Review for exam.

September 28: **Exam 1.**

Week 7

October 1: Frederick Douglass, video

October 3: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
On paper writing

October 5: *Narrative of the Life*
More on the paper

Week 8

October 8: Harriet Jacobs, from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
Documentation and plagiarism

October 10: *Incidents in the Life*

October 12: Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Week 9

October 15: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

October 17: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

October 19: **Paper due.**

Week 10

October 22: Louisa May Alcott, "Hospital Sketches"

October 24: Native American authors

October 26: Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"

Week 11

October 29: Review for exam.

October 31: **Exam 2**

November 2: From *Moby Dick*, Chapter 1, Chapter XXVIII, Chapter XXXXVI

Week 12

November 5: *Moby Dick*, Chapter XLI, Chapter XLII

November 7: *Moby Dick*

November 9: *Moby Dick*

Week 13

November 12: Melville's poetry, 2427-2431

November 14: Walt Whitman

November 16: Walt Whitman

Week 14

November 19: Whitman, Emily Dickinson

November 21: **Thanksgiving holiday**

November 23: **Thanksgiving holiday**

Week 15

November 26: Emily Dickinson

November 28: Emily Dickinson

November 30: Rebecca Harding Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills*

Week 16:

December 3: *Life in the Iron Mills*

December 5: Review for exam

December 7: **Study day.**

Week 17

Final Exams

Course Policies and Requirements

1. Attendance. Your regular attendance is expected in class, and I will take roll each class day. University policy stipulates that you are allowed 3 absences without penalty. Please note that in this class, **with over 9 absences, you may fail the class.** Please talk to me if you have some extenuating circumstances that would excuse such a large number of absences, such as an extended illness or illness or emergency in the family.

2. Exams. You will have 3 exams in this class. The final exam will not be comprehensive. All exams will be short answer and essay.

3. Papers. You will write one 5- page paper in this class (approximately 1500 words). The paper will be critical and analytical in nature. We will talk about paper writing during class. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. **Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade (5 points) for each day they are late.** Extensions may be granted if warranted by circumstances; please talk to me as far in advance as possible, if you anticipate needing an extension. **You must turn in a hard copy of your paper at the beginning of class on the due date.**

4. Missed exams. If you are absent on an exam day, you **must** present me with a signed excuse from a doctor, or other documentation of your excuse, in order to take the exam or the quiz without penalty. Please call or e-mail me as soon as you know that you will miss an exam.

5. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's words or ideas as your own. It can take many forms, such as turning in another person's work as your own, copying from someone else's test or paper, or lifting too exactly from sources when you are doing research. It is a particularly serious academic offense, because it amounts to academic theft and is, of course, dishonest. **Plagiarism can result in failure of the assignment and/or the course. In addition,** The University and its representatives may initiate **disciplinary proceedings** against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

6. Final grade. Your final grade will be composed of a straight average of the paper grade and the exams; a 100-point grade scale will be employed on all work.

7. Student evaluations. Each student will be asked to evaluate the course at the end of the semester.

University policies

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911b of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 86101 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. Students desiring to absent themselves from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day shall present to each instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, I encourage you to register with the “SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosure of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **Please note:** No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.