

English 585: American Literature: 1800-1865
Fall, 2007
Dr. Julie Hall
Wednesday night, 6-9:00 p.m.
Evans 358

My contact information:

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Required Texts:

The Heath Anthology of American Literature: Early Nineteenth Century, 1800-1865.

Volume B only. 5th edition. Ed Paul Lauter. ISBN: 0-618-53298-6

The House of the Seven Gables, Norton Critical Edition, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Our Nig, by Harriet Wilson

Course Description:

This course is an intensive study of literary production in the U.S. from 1800-1865, a period variously termed the American Renaissance or the American Romantic period. Outlining the emergence and development of Romantic thought and of the various genres practiced in the period (short story, novel, poetry, non-fiction), the course also concentrates on notable literary figures and texts. Authors to be read include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville, Harriet Wilson, Walt Whitman, and Emily Dickinson.

Course Objectives:

This course has several primary objectives:

- 1) To strengthen and enhance students abilities to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and literature.
- 2) To strengthen skills in oral and written expression.
- 3) To increase factual knowledge of American literature of this period.
- 4) To strengthen research methods and skills, encouraging use of resources for answering questions and solving problems.

Course Requirements:

1. I conform to University policy on attendance, which allows that you may miss 3 (1 hour) classes without penalty. In this case, as we meet for 3 hours, you may miss **1** class without penalty. **If you miss more than 3 classes (9 hours) you may fail the class.**
2. You will take **2** 2-hour exams during the course: a mid-term, and a final. Both will be essay tests.
3. You will submit **1 annotated bibliography** on an assigned date. The bibliography will list and review **5** scholarly articles, books, or chapters of books. We will talk in detail about the annotated bibliography during class.

4. You will submit 1 12-15 analytical and critical paper that makes substantial use of research.

5. The exams, the bibliography, and the paper must all be turned in for successful completion of the class.

Assignments:

August 22:	Background and introduction to the course
August 29:	Washington Irving: "Rip Van Winkle," "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
September 5:	Edgar Allan Poe: "The Fall of the House of Usher," "Ligeia," "The Black Cat"
September 12:	Poe: "Review of Nathaniel Hawthorne's <i>Twice-Told Tales</i> ," Poe's poetry: "The Raven," "Annabel Lee," "To Helen"
September 19:	<i>The House of the Seven Gables</i>
September 26:	<i>The House of the Seven Gables</i>
October 3:	Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Poet," "Self-Reliance"
October 10:	Exam 1
October 17:	Henry David Thoreau Margaret Fuller
October 24:	Frederick Douglass or Harriet Jacobs
October 31:	Reading/research day
November 7:	<i>Our Nig</i>
November 14:	<i>Billy Budd</i> , Herman Melville
November 21:	Thanksgiving holiday
November 28:	Walt Whitman Paper due.
December 5:	Emily Dickinson
December 12:	Final Exam

Course Policies

1. **Papers** are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will be penalized 5 points for every day they are late, unless you have talked with me and obtained an extension of the deadline.
2. **Missed exams.** In order to make up an exam **without penalty**, you must present me with documentation supporting the reason for your absence. You may make up an exam within a week of the exam date.
3. **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.
4. **Final grade.** Your final grade will be composed of a straight average of the paper grade, the bibliography grade, and the exam grades; a 100-point grade scale will be employed on all work.
5. **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.