

**University of Puerto Rico
Recinto de Rio Piedras**

ENGL3251: Survey of American Literature to 1865...

Professor: Maritza Stanchich

Time/Place: Mondays and Wednesdays 4 to 5:20 p.m. LPM 311

Office hours: Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. or by appointment noon-1 p.m. Mondays or Wednesdays at Pedreira # 5, down the hall from English Department, basement Pedreira

Email: direct urgent questions only please at maritzastanchich@yahoo.com

Course description: Close readings of U.S. Literature from its inception to the mid-19th century with attention to its participation in national discourses as the United States is founded and begins to expand toward global imperial power. The founding myth of the nation will be critically revised and discourses of liberty coexisting with contradictory practices such as slavery and indigenous genocide will be explored. We will ask: What is a national literature? How does the deemed body of national literature, or canon, function and how has it recently been radically reconfigured? How did literature help manage the racial tensions and linguistic definitions of the United States? We will study major figures, including Franklin, Jefferson, Emerson, Hawthorne (*The Scarlet Letter* is our only novel), Poe, Thoreau, Melville, Whitman and Dickinson as well as a Latino, indigenous and African-American authors, such as Columbus, Apess and Douglass.

Teaching strategies: Class meetings will consist of analysis and discussion of reading assignments, and conceptual understanding of related issues. Visual and audio materials will be incorporated as needed and available.

- Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a.

Methods of Evaluation:

Class attendance and punctuality: 10 percent

Class participation: 10 percent

Freewrites and short writing assignments: 10 percent

Midterm Exam: 25 percent

Final paper: 25 percent

Final Exam: 20 percent

- Note that three absences will drop your grade by half. If you have three excused absences, then one more unexcused absence will affect your grade similarly. Six absences will drop two grades. Nine absences or more will not pass the course.
- Please also note: For students with disabilities, there will be differentiated methods of evaluation. *Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales.*

Papers: At least one short response paper (2 page minimum) will be assigned along with informal freewrites. A final research paper of a minimum of 5 pages will be due at the end

of the semester. The final paper will require analyzing and citing from at least one literary work and researching and citing from at least two critical sources. I will pass out written guidelines as the due date approaches.

Exams: A take-home midterm will consist of five short identifications and a choice of one essay. A take-home final exam will consist of ten short identification questions only.

Reading List and Course Outline

Required Text (available in campus bookstore):

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, volumes A and B in one package (if it is not on the shelf, ask a supervisor to get them from the *almacén*). Bring readings to class.

Week 1 – Wed., Jan. 19:

- Mandatory assignment due Monday: a one- to two-page informal response to your anthology. Closely examine and analyze the cover art, maps inside covers, and tables of contents of both volumes, and comment on anything that strikes you, makes you curious, or fills you with dread.

Week 2 – Mon., Jan. 24:

Class introductions in groups. Turn in one-page responses to anthology art, maps, and/or contents. Review overarching themes of course.

Wed., Jan. 26:

Read Introduction and Timeline to first part of Volume A, Literature to 1700.

Week 3 – Mon., Jan. 31:

The Iroquois Creation Story, Pima Stories of the Beginning of the World (all selections, 19-33), Native American Trickster Tales (Sioux and Navajo, 131-134, 150-155)

Wed., Feb. 2:

Early Latino U.S. literary history: Christopher Columbus (all selections), Bartolome de las Casas (all selections), Garcilaso de la Vega (all selections)

Week 4 – Mon., Feb. 7

The Puritans: William Bradford (bio on page 156, selections beginning on 157, 159, 166, 169, and from 174-179, 186-190)

Wed., Feb. 9

Anne Bradstreet (bio on page 238, poems beginning on 263, 267, 268, 271)

Week 5 – Mon., Feb. 14 ♥ :

Introduction and Timeline to 1700-1820 (425-436)

Wed., Feb. 16:

Benjamin Franklin, bio (515), The Way to Wealth (516-522), Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America (534-538)

- Short response paper guidelines to be handed out, and due **next Wednesday**

Week 6 – Mon., Feb. 21: Holiday, George Washington

Wed., Feb. 23:

Thomas Paine, bio (704), Common Sense (706-711), From The Age of Reason, Chapter XI, Of the Theology of the Christians, and the True Theology (721-724)

- short response paper due

Week 7 – Mon., Feb. 28:

Thomas Jefferson, all selections (704-724). Recommended next entry: The Federalist

Wed., March 2:

Phillis Wheatley, bio (808), On Being Brought from Africa to America (810), To His Excellency General Washington (819), To Rev. Samson Occom, The Natural Rights of Negroes (823), To John Thornton, The Death of Mrs. Wheatley (824), plus essay by Alice Walker to be handed out in photocopy, “In Search of Our Mother’s Gardens”

- Citation Freewrite to be assigned on Jefferson OR Wheatley OR Equiano

Week 8 – Mon., March 7:

Oulaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (747-781)

Wed., March 9: Finish discussing Equiano

- Citation Freewrite due

Week 9 – Mon., March 14:

Introduction, Timeline to Volume B, American Literature 1820-1865 (957-977)

- Take home midterm to be handed out in class, due after Semana Santa

Wed., March 16:

The Cherokee Memorials (all selections, 1029-1038)

William Apess, An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man (1078-1084)

Week 10 – Mon., March 21-23: Semana Santa!

Week 11 – Mon., March 28:

- Take home midterm due in class (please ask if you need a one-day extension)

James Fenimore Cooper, bio (1013), from The Pioneers, III, The Slaughter of... (1023)

Wed., March 30:

Edgar Allan Poe, bio (1507), The Raven (1518-20), Annabel Lee (1524), The Tell-Tale Heart (1572)

Week 12 – Mon., April 4:

Ralph Waldo Emerson, bio (1103), The American Scholar (1135-1147), Last of the Anti-Slavery Lectures, the Seventh of March, 1854 (1207)

Wed., April 6:

Nathaniel Hawthorne, bio (1247),

Begin *The Scarlet Letter*. **Suggestion:** Read “The Custom House” section last

Week 13 – Mon., April 11:

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, (1358-1473) and Custom-House (1333-1358)

- Possible quiz on novel *The Scarlet Letter*

Wed., April 13:

Finish discussing *The Scarlet Letter*

- Final paper guidelines to be handed out, bring both volumes of anthology to class

Week 14 – Mon., April 18: Holiday, José de Diego

Wed., April 20:

Henry David Thoreau, bio (1788), Resistance to Civil Government (1792-1806)

- paper topics due to me in writing (a few sentences or a paragraph on text chosen)

Week 15 – Mon., April 25:

Frederick Douglass, bio (2029), The Meaning of the Fourth of July for... (2108-2126)

Wed., April 27:

I should have seen and commented on all paper topics by now!

- discuss paper topics with each other

Week 16 – Mon., May 2:

Film focusing on slavery will be screened during both classes in the Screening Room, Pedreira 105a. Roots? Amistad? Beloved? Sankofa?

- Introduction paragraphs to final papers due in class (I will read them carefully and return them with comments Wednesday). Questions: maritzastanchich@yahoo.com

Wed., May 4: finish film

- return introductory paragraphs

Week 17 – Mon., May 9:

Herman Melville, bio (2287), from Moby-Dick, Chapter XXVII, Ahab (2310), Chapter XLII, The Whiteness of the Whale (2324-2330), Bartleby, the Scrivener (2330)

- Take-home final to be handed out in class. This will consist of identifies only (the equivalent to Part 1 of the midterm). The identifies may also consist of terms that need to be defined as well as of citations. The final exam will cover from James Fenimore Cooper to the end.

Wed., May 11:

Walt Whitman, bio (2127), Spontaneous Me (2206), Trickle Drops (2211), When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer (2219)

and Emily Dickinson, bio (2499), Wild Nights (2508), Much Madness is Divinest Sense (2515), I Heard a Fly Buzz...(2517), The Brain is Wider...(2522), Tell all Truth...(2532)

Thurs., May 12: Last Day of Class! University classes on Monday schedule wrap up overarching themes of course

Mon., May 16:

Take home final exam AND final paper due by 4 p.m. in my mailbox near English Department. **Note:** If you want your papers mailed back to you, please include your address and/or a self-addressed envelope.