

## ENGLISH 213: AMERICAN LITERATURE BEGINNINGS TO 1865

MWF 11:00-11:50

Professor Julie Tharp  
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### Required Texts:

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Beginnings to 1865*, shorter 9<sup>th</sup> edition  
*Wieland*, Charles Brockden Brown  
*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs

### Course Description

This course will provide you with an introduction to literature written in English on this continent prior to 1865. We will be reading, discussing, and writing together in the effort to understand early American literary efforts and the roles they have played in shaping culture, influencing the course of history, and ultimately touching our own lives. If you are currently taking History 101 or have taken it in the past, I urge you to dig into your notes and try to make connections between the two courses.

### Course Assignments

- 1) Readings: You will be responsible for finishing the readings by the given due dates and you will be expected to participate in class discussion on those readings.
- 2) Short written assignments: Respond to the questions on the reading guides and, when requested (about once a week), expand your response.
- 3) Facilitation of one small group discussion: You will make a short presentation to your small group and lead them in a group discussion on questions of your design over one of the readings assigned for the week for which you volunteer. This will either be done solo or in pairs, depending upon class size.
- 4) Three papers: You will write three short papers (each a minimum of 4 pages typed) each on a different reading for the course. The syllabus gives you specific deadlines for each paper, but you could conceivably write all of the papers in the first four weeks of class. Try to spread them out. I will provide you with ideas for paper topics, but ultimately the choice is up to you.

### Classroom Policies

#### Attendance:

If you miss more than four classes your final grade will be lowered.

#### Assignment:

You are allowed one late assignment, but that should be in my hands within one week of the



deadline or I will not accept it. If your work is tardy because of some difficulty with the assignments, visit me during an office hour or set up an appointment.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

I have no sense of humor about plagiarism or cheating in any form. I assume we all enter the course in good faith. Do nothing to break with it.

Revision:

You may revise graded essays for reconsideration by the professor. The higher grade will stand. Revisions should be turned in within two weeks of receipt.

Course Outline

Sept. 4	Introduction
6	Trickster Tales
9	John Smith
11	Bradford
13	Winthrop
16	Anne Bradstreet
18	Mary Rowlandson
20	Mary Rowlandson
23	Jonathan Edwards
25	Benjamin Franklin
27	Samson Occom
30	Crevecoeur
Oct. 2	Paine
* 4	Jefferson
7	Equiano
9	Wheatley
11	<i>Wieland</i>
14	<i>Wieland</i>
16	<i>Wieland</i>
18	Reading Day—No Class
21	<i>Wieland</i>
23	Washington Irving
25	Washington Irving
28	Edgar Allan Poe
30	Edgar Allan Poe Halloween Eve
Nov. 1	Edgar Allan Poe



4	Ralph Waldo Emerson
6	“ “
8	Nathaniel Hawthorne
11	“ “
** 13	Harriet Beecher Stowe
15	
18	Frederick Douglas
20	<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>
22	“ “
25	“ “
27	Catch-up Day
29	Harvest Festival—No Class
Dec. 2	Henry David Thoreau
4	“ “
6	Herman Melville
9	Walt Whitman
11	Emily Dickinson
13	Emily Dickinson Birthday Party

\* first essay due

\*\*second essay due

The third essay is due on the final exam date.

Small group facilitations will take place on:

September 28

October 14

November 4

November 23

