

Syllabus for
ENG 323/323H—American Literature I
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2025

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the major authors and works of American literature from the Puritan period to the mid-nineteenth century.

Honors Distinctive: Students who enroll in the honors section of this course submit an additional research report and make an additional oral presentation.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course strives to enable the student to

- a. trace the movement of American literature from its Native American origins and from the 17th century colonial period to the mid-19th century,
- b. understand that the literature constitutes a sustained encounter among European Americans, Native American, and minority groups,
- c. relate names of major authors and titles of chief works in each period.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Trace the major developments in American literature from colonization to 1900.
2. Explain the socio-historical and economic factors affecting the development of American literary history
3. Discuss the ways in which each literary movement is reflective of its historical time and place, especially changes in aesthetic standards

B. Unit Objectives

As a result of successfully completing these units, the student will be able to do the following:

1. The Native American/Colonial Period
 - a. Identify the modes and themes of traditional Native American oral expression, the literature of exploration, and captivity narratives; and the dynamics of intercultural and interracial exchange that resulted from the European colonization of the American continent. (SC 2, 5, 10)
 - b. Explain the Puritan worldview, its chief concerns and its theological background, and analyze the distinctive elements of the style of Puritan writing, including the spiritual autobiography. (SC 5)
 - c. Evaluate the artistic achievement of Anne Bradstreet, Edward Taylor, Cotton Mather, and Jonathan Edwards, with special attention to typology and its development toward symbolism. (SC 2)

2. The Age of Enlightenment and the Revolutionary War
 - a. Discuss the changed worldview of the 18th-century American, and name the stylistic changes that accompanied the shift in philosophical and theological outlook. (SC 5)
 - b. Explain the importance of the political writers of the period.
 - c. Discuss the poetry, drama, and fiction of the period, and discuss the contributions of such writers as Phillis Wheatley, Philip Freneau, and Susanna Rowson. (SC 10)
3. Early to Middle 19th Century, including the Romantic Movement
 - a. List the major factors of American life in the 19th century that influenced the stylistic and thematic direction of American writing. (SC 2, 10)
 - b. Explain the "American Dream" motif and the contributions of American "mythmakers" like J. Fenimore Cooper, including the mythos of the Adamic hero and of the wilderness.
 - c. Explain the relationship between transcendentalism and the traditional values of the American culture. (SC 5)
 - d. Trace the shift from typology to symbolism.
 - e. Discuss Irving's, Hawthorne's, Melville's, and Poe's work in the development of the novel and short story genres; describe symbolic techniques in Hawthorne, Melville, and Poe and recognize their contributions to literary theory.
4. Civil War to 1880
 - a. Discuss the impact of the Civil War on American literature, including the socio-economic changes that war caused in American culture
 - b. Identify the realistic and romantic elements in the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, understand the radical nature of their poetry both in form and content, and describe their influence upon modern poetry
 - c. Relate the influences of "noncanonical" writings to the mainstream of American literature

C. Objectives for Students in Teacher Preparation Programs

The Teacher Preparation Program meets the competency-based requirements established by the Oklahoma Commission on Teacher Preparation. This course meets the following subject competencies: (SC 1, 2, 5, and 10).

- SC 1: Maintains current knowledge of content-area concepts of written and oral communication, literature, and language systems (phonetic, semantic, syntactic, pragmatic);
- SC 2: Applies comprehension, analysis, interpretation, synthesis and evaluation of auditory, written, and visual messages;
- SC 5: Understands the influences of social and historical contexts and culture on language and literature and adapts instruction accordingly;
- SC 10: Understands and teaches strategies appropriate to a variety of forms (genres), text organizations, and structures, including functional print and informational print.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

Levine, Robert S. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Package 1, 10th edition. New York: WW Norton and Company, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-393-88608-2

Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans* (any edition)

Suggested Handbook: *A Writer's Reference*, 9th Edition. Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers. Bedford/St. Martins, 2018. ISBN 978-1-319-05744-2

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
2. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
3. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

- B. Department Policies and Procedures
1. **Class Assignments**
 - a. Students need to come to class with the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
 - b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.
 2. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.
 3. **Late Work**
 - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
 - b. Any test taken late (except if the absence is administratively excused) incurs the ORU late exam fee (\$15), which must be paid before the late test can be taken.
 - c. Assignments missed because of administratively excused absences are accepted with no penalty. Generally, assignments missed from an excused absence, such as sickness or family crises, can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course, so a teacher may decide that work missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence.
 4. **Attendance**
 - a. **Excused and Unexcused Absences**—Class attendance is mandatory, but because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is intended for illness, personal business, and emergency. Work missed because of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency) can be made up; however, it is up to the teacher's

discretion whether or not to accept work missed due to an unexcused absence (e.g., oversleeping, skipping class). If a student exceeds this number of absences, the student may lose points due to late work or for excessive absences, which may affect the semester grade. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.

- b. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:

- (1) Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
- (2) Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
- (3) Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
- (4) Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.

5. **Plagiarism**—Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments.

- a. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation procedures. Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.
- b. Students may be asked to submit their assignments to Turnitin.com (an online anti-plagiarism program) or have their work submitted to D2L, which also submits work to Turnitin.com.

6. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for "good cause," such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the School of Liberal Arts. Very few incompletes are granted.

7. **Whole Person Assessment**—If this course requires a WPA assignment, it is listed in the next section ("Course Policies and Procedures"). Students need to comply as indicated in this syllabus and/or by the instructor.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Grading**

- a. Class participation, two long essays, 2 short papers, an oral presentation and a final exam essay. Total points: 800
- b. The following scale is used for points accumulated:
A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=below 60%

3. **KPA (Key Performance Assessment) Requirements**
 - a. This course addresses the EML Department's English program outcome #3, **Literary Theory and Critical Thinking**.
 - b. The KPA assignment consists of a critical analysis essay. Students upload the essay to the dropbox folder on D2L labeled *KPA-ENG Critical Analysis Essay*.
 - c. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.
4. **Other Policies and/or Procedures**
 - a. Classes include lecture and discussion.
 - b. Students are expected to be prepared for class and to participate in class discussion.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Weeks 1-2	The Explorers and Early Native Americans
Weeks 3-4	The Puritans
Weeks 5-7	The Enlightenment and the Revolution
Week 8	The Revolution to 1820
Weeks 9-10	American Romanticism
Weeks 11-13	The American Renaissance
Weeks 14-15	The Civil War to 1880
Week 16	Final

Primary Program: B.A. Writing
ENG 323 American Literature I
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This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

OUTCOMES	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution
Spiritual Integrity			
Personal Resilience			
Intellectual Pursuit			
ENG 323 Outcome 2 – Student is able to think critically, analyze linguistic structures, synthesize information, and evaluate information critically.	X		
ENG 323 Outcome 3 – Student can write with clarity and skill, can write original works avoiding formulaic writing, and can employ various literary devices.		X	
ENG 323 Outcome 5 – Student can write correct and effective academic papers, evaluating information and using it ethically and appropriately with correct grammar, mechanics, and presentation.	X		
ENG 323 Outcome 6 – Student demonstrates understanding of literary genres and characteristics of literature from various time periods.	X		
Global Engagement			
Bold Vision			

(Revised 02/24/23)