

Bismarck State College

Bismarck State College, an innovative community college, offers high quality education, workforce training, and enrichment programs reaching local and global communities.

Current Semester: Fall 2018

Course: American Literature I, English 261

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Jaclyn Allen

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Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. I am also available by appointment.

Course Materials: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* Volume A and B 9th Edition

Course Description:

This course charts the historical, cultural, and literary evolution of the American nation. Beginning with the verbal and written art of America's first inhabitants, American Indians, the records of European explorers and the writings of colonial settlers, students will then explore additional representative works such as slave narratives and masterful works of writers such as Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman, and Dickinson. This course fulfills Arts & Humanities requirements for a degree at BSC. **Prerequisite: English 110.** GERTA-A&H. This course qualifies as a meeting a General Education requirement for earning college degrees at BSC.

Course Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcomes (or Course Outcomes)	Program Learning Outcomes (or Program Outcomes)	Institutional Essential Learning Outcomes (IELOs)
Demonstrate knowledge of American literature, authors' lives, and literary history;	Critical Thinking	Thought
Demonstrate increased ability to interpret literature;	Critical Thinking	Thought
Demonstrate ability to assess comparative values of different literary works;	Critical Thinking	Thought
Express understanding and appreciation of the contribution of American literature to self-identity and America's identity in the world.	Diversity	Diversity
Contribute to team tasks and discussions about literature	Communication	Communication

* The BSC Institutional Essential Learning Outcomes can be found at

<https://bismarckstate.edu/uploads/0/BSCsInstitutionalEssentialLearningOutcomes.pdf>

Unit Objectives:

Unit 1: Read, interpret, and demonstrate knowledge about authors from the time period the beginning of the American time to 1820. Express understanding about how the time period from the beginnings to 1820 contributed to self-identity and America's identity.

Unit 2: Read, interpret, and demonstrate knowledge about authors from the time period 1820-Civil War. Express understanding about how the time period contributed to self-identity and America's identity.

Active Learning:

In addition to educational strategies such as reading, listening, and reflecting, when appropriate this class makes use of learning techniques commonly known as active learning. Students should expect to participate in active learning techniques such as discussions and presentations, small group activities, writing, problem-solving, movement, case studies, role-playing, etc. These activities promote analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class content in order to improve student learning outcomes.

Assessment Methods:

Daily writing, exams, formal papers, and class discussion demonstrate how each student attained the goals and enacted the outcomes.

Grading:

Student achievement in this course will be assessed using texts, reaction responses, essays, attendance and collaborative activities. Graded items from the aforementioned competencies will become this course's contribution to Bismarck State College's student outcomes assessment program.

Grading Scale: 100-90% A, 89-80% B, 79-70% C, 69-60% D, 59 and below F

Grading:

Daily Work: 5% of grade

Presentations: 5% of grade

Reaction Responses: 10% of grade

Exams and Major Essay 70% of grade

Grades will be posted in our online Blackboard class so please check that often to see your grades.

Attendance/Makeup:

Attendance in class is required. After **EIGHT** absences, you will automatically fail. Please also be on time for class; if you are tardy three times that equals one absence. See the Late Work Policy for information on making up work.

Policies and Procedures:

Academic Honor Code: Students at BSC are expected to be honorable in behavior and above reproach in pursuit of their academic achievements. Cheating, plagiarism, or collusion in class work, laboratory performance, shop work, or test taking is unacceptable and subject to disciplinary action. More information can be found at <https://bismarckstate.edu/uploads/resources/356/studentacademichonorcode.pdf>.

Accessibility: If you have a disability that may limit your ability to fully participate in this class, please contact the Student Accessibility Office (SAO) at 224-5671. Personnel from the SAO will work with you and your instructor to arrange for reasonable accommodations after you have completed the registration process and it has been determined that you qualify.

Camera/Video Recording: Photographic, audio, and video recording of this class and/or the instructor are prohibited unless specifically requested by a student and approved/authorized in writing by the instructor or the Student Accessibility Office.

Email: Please note that I will only correspond with students through their **BSC email account**. Student Email Policy states: "In an effort to protect student privacy and better ensure student authenticity, official email exchanged between registered students and BSC personnel requesting a response shall require the response be

exchanged from the student's official email address (i.e., [NDUS ID@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:NDUS_ID@bismarckstate.edu)). This policy is for the protection of faculty, staff, and students." More information can be found at <https://bismarckstate.edu/uploads/resources/1197/studentemailpolicy.pdf>.

Military/Veteran Statement: If you are currently or have served in the military, please contact the Veterans Services Office at 224-5779 regarding services/benefits to which you may be entitled.

Drop/Withdrawal Deadlines: Term dates can be found on Campus Connection in the class details. Drop and withdraw dates for each term can be found at <https://bismarckstate.edu/academics/records/calendarsdeadlines/>.

Student Policy Handbook: Student rights and responsibilities are documented including the student conduct policy, student academic honor code, etc. can be found at <https://bismarckstate.edu/students/resources/StudentCodeofConduct/>

Title IX: For more information on sexual misconduct/Title IX please go to the BSC home page (www.bismarckstate.edu), scroll to the bottom and click on Title IX.

Recordings: Photographic, audio, and visual recordings of this class and/or the instructor are prohibited unless specifically requested by a student and approved/authorized in writing by the instructor or the Student Accessibility Office.

Course Schedule:

Week 1	Aug. 21	Introduction to Class and Syllabus.
	Aug. 23	Discuss the Beginning to 1820 on 3-25 in Volume A. Discuss Native American Oral Literature and the "Iroquois Creation Story" on 29-35 and "The Navajo Creation Story" on 35-43. Discuss handout on Genesis. Reaction responses to the Iroquois Creation Story and the Navajo Creation Story.
Week 2	Aug. 28	Finish discussion of Creation stories. Discuss Christopher Columbus on 58-66. Reaction response to Columbus due.
	Aug. 30	Discuss Bartolome de las Casas and Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca on 66-79. Reaction responses to de las Casas and de Vaca due (2 reactions).
Week 3	Sept. 4	Exam I.
	Sept. 6	Discuss William Bradford on 129-159 (stop before reading Troubles of the West). Reaction response to <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> due.
Week 4	Sept. 11	Discuss Anne Bradstreet on 217-219. Read "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" on 236-237, "In Reference to Her Children" on 239-241, "In Memory of my Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet" on 241-242 "...Anne Bradstreet" on 242 and "On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet" on 242. Mini-reactions on the poems due.
	Sept. 13	Discuss Mary Rowlandson and "A Narrative on the Captivity and Restoration" on 267-301. Reaction response to "A Narrative on the Captivity and Restoration" due.
Week 5	Sept. 18	Work Day on Salem Witch Trials.
	Sept. 20	Presentations on Salem Witch Trials. Discuss Cotton Mather and <i>Wonders of the Invisible World</i> on 321-327. Reaction response to <i>Wonders of the Invisible World</i> due.
Week 6	Sept. 25	Exam II.
	Sept. 27	Discuss Jonathan Edwards on 356-357. Discuss "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" on 390-402. Reaction response to "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" due.
Week 7	Oct. 2	Discuss Benjamin Franklin and "The Way to Wealth" on 439-448. Reaction Response to "The Way to Wealth" due.
	Oct. 4	Discuss Thomas Paine on 681-689. Discuss <i>Common Sense</i> on 641-647. Reaction response to <i>Common Sense</i> due.

Week 8	Oct. 9 Oct. 11	Exam III. Discuss Introduction to 1820-1865 on 3-24 in Volume B. Discuss Washington Irving on 25-27 and “Rip Van Winkle” on 29-41. Reaction response to “Rip Van Winkle” due.
Week 9	Oct. 16 Oct. 18	Discuss Nathaniel Hawthorne on 328-332 and “Young Goodman Brown” on 345-354. Reaction response to “Young Goodman Brown” due. Discuss Edgar Allan Poe on 604-608 and “The Black Cat” on 670-676. Reaction response to “The Black Cat” due.
Week 10	Oct. 23 Oct. 25	Discuss “The Cask of Amontillado” on 696-701. Reaction response to “The Cask of Amontillado” due. Exam IV: Irving-Poe.
Week 11	Oct. 30 Nov. 1	Peer review of essay/short conferences on essay. Bring 3 copies of essay to class. Gothic Analysis due (upload to Blackboard assignment as well as hand in a hard copy). Discuss Harriet Jacobs and <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> on 909-931. Reaction response to <i>Incidents</i> due.
Week 12	Nov. 6 Nov. 8	Discuss Ralph Waldo Emerson and <i>Nature</i> through Chapter IV on 181-194. Reaction response to <i>Nature</i> due. Discuss Walt Whitman on 1294-1297. Discuss “As I Ebb’d with the Ocean of Life,” on 1373-1375, “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer” on 1375, and “A Noiseless Patient Spider” on 1395. Mini-Reaction responses due.
Week 13	Nov. 13 Nov. 15	Exam V. Discuss Herman Melville on 1410-1413. Discuss “Bartleby, The Scrivener” on 1469-1495. Reaction response to “Bartleby, The Scrivener” due.
Week 14	Nov. 20 Nov. 22	Discuss Rebeca Harding-Davis and “Life in the Iron Mills” on 1696-1724. Reaction response to “Life in the Iron Mills” due. No Class. Thanksgiving Break.
Week 15	Nov. 27 Nov. 29	Discuss Emily Dickinson on 1654-1658. Read Poem 236 on 1662, Poem 269 on 1670, Poem 320 on 1666, and Poem 591 on 1679. Mini-Reaction response due for the poems. Exam VI.
Week 16	Dec. 4 Dec. 6	Work day on Dickinson group projects. Group project presentations.
Week 17	Monday, Dec. 10:	10-11:00 p.m. Group presentations

Late Work Policy:

- Late reaction responses (anything after we start class) will be accepted until the next class period for ½ credit. After the next class period begins, you will receive no credit. Note that you are certainly encouraged to use our computers in our classroom; however, you must print PRIOR to class, not during or after class for your reactions and assignments that are due during class. You can also email me your reaction PRIOT to class start time for full credit if you are unable to make it to class.
- Late gothic essays will be docked a letter grade (A to B) for every day that they are late.
- You may not make up the presentations or work days for presentations.
- You may not make up any daily work that is done in class.
- Exams may only be made up with prior approval; all make up tests must be completed by the next class period. It is your responsibility to contact me to make arrangements for completing the make-up test.

Reaction Responses for the stories, poems, and novels:

You will write a short reaction response, answering at least the four questions below, for each of the short stories we read for class. Your reaction essays should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ **page to a full page** typed in Times New Roman font, using MLA format. These responses are always due the day the reading assignment will be discussed (due dates can be found below).

- What is your first/general reaction to the story/poem?
- What did you like about this story or poem?
- What part(s) didn't you understand about the story/ poem? What questions did you have?
- What connection to the larger world today does it have? In other words, what similarities or differences does it have to life in our country today or in other countries? Or what connection does it have personally to you?

Cell Phone Usage:

If you have your cell phone out during class without prior instructor approval, your grade will be deducted by 5 points per incident (I may not notify you of the point deduction). Please put away phones before the start of class and keep them put away. If you would like to use your phone for any research, please get prior approval first.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas without crediting the other person. This can destroy the credibility of the writer and can result in serious consequences. In the case of the student who willfully plagiarizes, the student will receive a 0% for that essay. In the case that a second case of plagiarism happens, the student will be failed for the course.

Instructor's Note: I reserve the right to amend this syllabus at any point.