ENGLISH 343

Fall, 1995

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Text


Course Requirements

(a) Careful reading of the works assigned for class (the historical and biographical introductions in the *Norton* are strongly recommended, but not required).

(b) Three tests/exams: one on October 12 on the writers up to and including Thoreau; the second on November 9 on the writers mentioned on the course outline after the first test up to an including Jacobs; and a third, three hour in-class final, on the writers mentioned on the course outline after the second test, and the following writers studied earlier in the course: Bradstreet, Edwards, Franklin, Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe (note: although you will not be asked any questions which focus specifically on the earlier writers, you will probably be asked a comparison question in which you will be required to demonstrate knowledge of their works). In determining your final grade, I will count the final exam as being worth 40%, the higher of your other two grades as being worth 40%, and the lower as 20%.

Optional Assignment

If you wish, either to replace or instead of writing one of the term tests, you may write an essay. The essay should be approximately 2500 words, either research or non-research, on one or more of the writers studied during the course, focusing on a topic chosen after consultation with and approved by me, and handed in no later than the last class. Students who write the essay intending to replace a grade received on a test will be credited with the higher of the two grades received on the essay or test.
Course Outline

Sept. 12 Introduction

14 "Early American Literature" (75-78, recommended), Bradstreet (all the poems except "Contemplations"), Rowlandson (not discussed in class)

19 "Early American Literature" (78-79, recommended), Taylor ("Prologue," Meditation 8 and 22, "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children", "Huswifery")

21 "Early American Literature" (79-80, recommended), Edwards ("Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God")

26 "Early American Literature" (80-83, recommended), Franklin ("Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America," begin "The Autobiography")

28 Franklin ("The Autobiography"), De Crevecoeur (not discussed in class)

Oct. 3 "American Literature, 1820-1865" (385-95, recommended), Emerson ("Self-Reliance")

5 Thoreau ("Economy" chapter from "Walden")

10 Thoreau ("Walden")

12 Exam: students are responsible for Bradstreet, Rowlandson, Taylor, Edwards, Franklin, De Crevecoeur, Emerson, and Thoreau.

17 Fuller

19 Hawthorne ("My Kinsman, Major Molineux", "Roger Malvin's Burial")

24 Hawthorne ("The May-Pole of Merry Mount," "Wakefield," "The Minister's Black Veil")

26 Melville ("Hawthorne and His Mosses," "Bartleby, the Scrivener")

30 Poe (selected poems including "The Raven," "The Philosophy of Composition")

Nov. 2 Poe (Reviews of Hawthorne's Twice-Told Tales, "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Cask of Amontillado")

7 "American Literature, 1820-1865" (395-99, recommended), Douglass ("Narrative... Himself"), Jacobs (not discussed in class)

9 Exam: students are responsible for Fuller, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, Douglass, and Jacobs.

14 Whitman (begin "Song of Myself"), Bryant ("The Prairies"), Longfellow ("A Psalm of Life," "My Lost Youth") (neither Bryant nor Longfellow will be focused on in class)
16  Whitman ("Song of Myself"), Dickinson (selected poems)
18  Dickinson (selected poems)
21  Twain (begin "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"), "American Literature, 1865-1914" (1181-85, recommended)
23  Twain ("Adventures of Huckleberry Finn")
28  James ("The Beast in the Jungle"), "American Literature, 1865-1914" (1185-88, recommended)
30  Jewett ("The Foreigner"), Chopin ("The Storm")

Dec. 5  Gilman ("The Yellow Wallpaper"), Crane ("An Episode of War," selected poems), "American Literature, 1965-1914" (1188-91, recommended)