INSTRUCTOR: Kevin McGuirk, HH 263, phone ext. 2419; hours T 1-2, Th 6-7, and by appointment.

TEXTS:
Arthur Miller, The Crucible, Penguin
Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Signet
Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter, Bantam
Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass, Bantam
William Andrews, ed., Classic American Autobiographies, Mentor
Emily Dickinson, Poems, Shambhala
Mark Twain, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, eds. Gerald Graff and James Phelan, St Martin's
Ralph Waldo Emerson, Self-Reliance and Other Essays, Dover

The English department recommends that all students purchase a handbook of style for reference purposes, specifically The Little, Brown Compact Handbook by June E. Aaron and Murray McArthur. All royalties derived from the sale of this handbook at the UW bookstore will be donated to the Department of English scholarship fund.

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE OF READINGS:
1) Sept. 8- Oct. 2: Whitman "Song of Myself" sections 1-5; Emerson, "Self-Reliance," "The Poet"; Whitman (further selections TBA); Dickinson (selections TBA); Franklin (selections TBA in Classic American Autobiographies)
2) Oct. 7-30: Franklin, Douglass (in Classic American Autobiographies); Uncle Tom's Cabin; Adventures of Huckleberry Finn including critical materials in Graff edition
3) Nov. 4-27: Winthrop "A Model of Christian Charity" (handout); Rowlandson (in Classic American Autobiographies); The Scarlet Letter; The Crucible; text TBA

ASSIGNMENTS:
1 three memorizations (5% each - total 15%). Your memory of passages from material on the course will be tested three times during the term. Tests will take place on Thursday Oct. 2, Thursday Oct. 30, and Thursday
November 27. You must write out your memorized passage (I'll give you a choice of two or three passages) on two of these occasions; you will be tested strictly for accuracy. Skip one of these tests (or chuck out one effort before hand-in time) and choose a third passage (from course texts from the appropriate 4 week section and at least equal in length to a sonnet); recite this passage to the class or to me in my office by the end of classes. This time you will be marked for accuracy AND for meaning-enhancing attention to syntax, sound, rhythm, and pacing.
2 a brief essay (800-1,000 words) due during the week of October 7 (20%) responding to text(s) read during the first four weeks of term. I'd like you to write this essay in the form of a letter addressed to whomever you choose. This is NOT to say that this should be an emotive, subjective piece; critical thinking and stylistic rigor are important. What I want is an embodied, engaged, angled voice in your writing, and this is promoted by having a sense of audience. Be sure to limit your focus; choose a single text or topic.
3 an assignment relating to the critical materials in the Graff edition of Huck Finn. I would like this to involve group presentation and debate, but the large enrollment in this class may make that impossible. Probably a written assignment. Details to be decided and to follow. (25%)
4 a final take-home essay-exam (3,000 words) due December 15 (40%). The final exam will take the form of an essay on a topic in American literature and culture as it is represented and embodied in a selection of passages from texts. You will choose 5 or 6 passages from works on the syllabus, representing all three sections of the course; you will also include two passages from critical or theoretical writing on American literature or on literature generally; finally, you will include a passage from a work read in another course. I suggest that you keep a journal or day-book recording your responses to work as well as writing out passages of interest to you. This will help you begin to make connections and develop a topic for your take-home exam/essay. In other words, start work on your final exam NOW.

NOTE: My office hours are there FOR YOU. Make use of them to discuss ideas, texts, and assignments relating to the course. If my hours are inconvenient for you, make an appointment or drop by when my door is open.