English 203: American Literature to 1900  
Fall 2009  
TTh 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.


Fall 2009 Office Hours:  
- Monday and Wednesday 12 – 1:30 p.m.  
- Tuesday and Thursday 12 – 1 p.m.  
- And by appointment.

Course Description:  English 203 will expose you to a variety of examples of North American “literature.” (I put the term in quotation marks because much of what we read does not fit traditional definitions of literature.) We will begin with Native American stories of creation and accounts of early explorers of this continent. We will conclude with more traditional examples of literature (poetry and short stories) that were produced during the 19th century. Between those two extremes we will explore a number of important historical events and cultural movements as they are reflected in the speeches, sermons, poems, essays, and stories of people touched by these events and movements. This course is designed to give you a general overview of the complex relationship between the spoken and written word and the development of a country.

Course Objectives:  
Students who pass this class with a “C” or better will be able to:

- Identify and discuss the important movements in American literature from the colonial period through the 19th century.
- Identify and discuss the major writers of these movements.
- Recognize the major influences that literature has had on the development of the “idea” of America and the “American ideal.”
- Recognize, discuss, and write about the major themes of the American literature of this time period.
- Recognize connections among literature, history, and other forms of artistic and/or personal expression (such as painting, material culture, popular culture, etc.) of an era.

Course Expectations:  
As students in my class, I expect you to:

- Complete your all reading and writing assignments prior to class.
- Bring your textbook with you to class.
- Arrive at class on time and remain in class for the entire period.
- Exhibit respectful behavior toward everyone in the classroom.
- Turn off and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices while in class.
- Be prepared to participate in class discussions and any written, in-class work.
- Contact me prior to or immediately after any class absence.
Attendance and Tardiness:

Missing an excessive number of classes (more than 3) will have a negative effect on your grade. When you are absent you risk missing quizzes or other in-class assignments (which cannot be made up—see below), missing important announcements, missing the chance to participate in class discussions, and/or missing important notes and information that will be included on exams.

If you miss a class, contact me prior to the absence or immediately afterward—not to offer an excuse but as a simple courtesy and to find out what you have missed.

Being late to class once or twice in a semester is not a problem. Being late to class more often than that is a problem, however, and you will be asked to resolve the issue immediately, either by arriving at class on time or by withdrawing from the class.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any assignment (including those in all electronic media) submitted by a student must be of the student's original authorship. Representation of another's work as your own shall constitute plagiarism.

Plagiarism is defined as any representation of the thoughts and/or words of another as your own. This definition includes everything from “borrowing” a paper from a roommate to forgetting to include a parenthetical citation as well as a host of other possibilities. Plagiarism is a serious offense and I will treat it as such in our class. Please be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and familiarize yourself with Morrisville State College’s policy regarding plagiarism.

Special Needs:

If you have any learning preferences that need to be accommodated in our classroom, you must inform me of them no later than the second week of classes. This will ensure that your accommodations can be met.

Grades:

- 4 Exams (10% each): 40%
- 2 Papers (20% each): 40%
- Quizzes & other in-class graded work, including class participation: 20%

The grades you receive during the semester will be numerical. When I compute your interim and final grades for the course, I will convert your numerical grade to a letter grade based upon the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 – 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 – 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 – 86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77 – 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>67 – 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 – 66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 64</td>
<td>F</td>
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Assignments and Course Work:

PowerPoint slides, class notes, exam preview sheets, and assignment sheets for papers are available on WebCT (http://e-class.morrisville.edu). The Exams will consist of a mix of objective questions (short answer, identification, etc.) and essay questions.

You will write 2 Papers for this class. Paper #1 can be submitted anytime before the official due date. Everyone will submit Paper #2 on the last day of class. You will be required to submit at least a Thesis Statement prior to each final paper. More details about the paper assignments will be provided in class and on WebCT.

Quizzes will be given almost always during the first 5-10 minutes of class. At the end of class you may be asked to write “1-minute papers” that ask you to summarize the material covered in class that day or to respond to a question based on the day’s discussion.

Most quizzes are objective in nature and graded out of a total of 100 points (extra credit questions may be offered in some quizzes). Some quizzes, as well as the 1-minute papers, will be more subjective in nature and graded “+” (excellent), “√” (satisfactory), or “-” (unsatisfactory).

Make-Up and Late Work:

- Make-up exams can generally be arranged, but only under dire circumstances—serious illness, legitimate family emergencies, etc.
Any schedule changes will be announced in class.

**ENGL 203 Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>T 8/25</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Th 8/27** | Christopher Columbus—about Columbus on p. 24, letters on pp. 25-27.  
   Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca—about de Vaca on pp. 28-30 and from the Relation of... on pp. 30-36.  
   Thomas Harriot—about Harriot on pp. 36-37 and from *A Brief and True Report...* on pp. 37-42. |
   John Winthrop—about Winthrop on p. 75-76 and “A Model of Christian Charity” on pp. 76-87 |
| **T 9/8**  | Anne Bradstreet—about Bradstreet on p. 97.  
   “The Prologue”—pp. 98-99  
   “The Author to Her Book”—p. 106  
   “Before the Birth of One of Her Children”—pp. 107-108  
   “To My Dear and Loving Husband”—p. 108  
   “A Letter to Her Husband”—pp. 108-109 |
| **Th 9/9** | Edward Taylor—about Taylor on pages 134-135  
   “Prologue”—pp. 135-136  
   “Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children”—pp. 140-141  
   “Huswifery”—p. 142 |
| **Th 9/10** | Mary Rowlandson—about Rowlandson on pp. 117-118 and from *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration...* on pp. 118-134. Also read “The Nineteenth Remove” on WebCT. |
| **T 9/15** | EXAM #1 |
| **Th 9/24** | Benjamin Franklin—about Franklin on pp. 218-220  
   From The Autobiography—pp. 280-292 |
| **T 9/29** | Olaudah Equiano—about Equiano on pp. 355-356 and from *The Interesting Narrative of...* on pp. 357-390 |
| **Phyllis Wheatley—about Wheatley on pp. 419-420** |  
   “On Being Brought from Africa to America”—pp. 420-421  
   “To the University of Cambridge...”—p. 421  
   “To His Excellency George Washington”—pp. 427-428 |
| **Th 10/1** | Washington Irving—about Irving on pp. 453-455 and “Rip Van Winkle” on pp. 455-466  
   James Fenimore Cooper—about Cooper on pp. 467-469 and “The Slaughter of the Pigeons” on WebCT |
T 10/6  EXAM #2
Th 10/8  PAPER #1 due

T 10/13
- Vacation/No Class

Th 10/15
Ralph Waldo Emerson—about Emerson on pp. 488-492
  - From “Nature”—pp. 492-495
  - “Self-Reliance”—pp. 532-550

T 10/20
- Conclude Emerson.
- Henry David Thoreau—about Thoreau on pp. 825-829 and from Walden on pp. 886-896

Th 10/22
- Henry David Thoreau “Resistance to Civil Government”—pp. 829-844

T 10/27
Nathaniel Hawthorne—about Hawthorne on pp. 589-592
  - “Young Goodman Brown”—pp. 605-614
  - “The Minister’s Black Veil”—pp. 622-631
  - “The Birth-Mark”—pp. 631-643

Th 10/29
- Herman Melville—about Melville on pp. 1089-1092 and “Bartleby, the Scrivener” on pp. 1092-1118

T 11/3
- EXAM #3

Th 11/5
- William Apess—about Apess on pp. 482-483 and “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man” on pp. 483-488
- Black Hawk—about Black Hawk on pp. 570-571 and from Life of... on pp. 571-574
- The Cherokee Memorials—on pp. 580-585

Th 11/12
- Harriet Jacobs—about Jacobs on pp. 804-805 and from Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl on pp. 805-825

T 11/17
- Harriet Beecher Stowe—about Stowe on pp. 764-767 and from Uncle Tom’s Cabin on pp. 767-799

Th 11/19
Edgar Allen Poe—about Poe on pp. 671-674
  - “The Raven”—pp. 675-678
  - “The Black Cat”—pp. 705-711
  - “The Tell-Tale Heart”—pp. 702-705

T 11/24
Emily Dickinson—about Dickinson on pp. 1197-1200
  - #269—p. 1205
  - #320—p. 1205
  - #324—on WebCT
  - #340—p. 1207
  - #372—p. 1211
  - #409—p. 1212
  - #465—p. 1215
  - #479—pp. 1214-1215

Th 11/26
- Vacation/No Class

T 12/1
Walt Whitman—about Whitman on pp. 991-995
  - From “Song of Myself” Sections 1-8 (pp. 1011-1017) and Sections 46-52 (pp. 1051-1055)
  - “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”—pp. 1071-1077

Th 12/3
- EXAM #4

T 12/8
- Conferences & Workshop on Paper #2

Th 12/10
- PAPER #2 due