

Murray State University

Revised 7/28/15

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH & PHILOSOPHY

COURSE PREFIX: ENG

COURSE NUMBER: 311

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. **TITLE:** American Literature to 1865

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):** A study of the development of American literature from the nation's beginnings to 1865, with emphasis on major works and writers, including critical approaches.

**Prerequisite(s):** ENG 105 or 150 or the equivalent, and ENG 221 or permission of instructor.

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The course is designed to help students read broadly the literature of Early America. Students will examine the broad historical, social, cultural, and political contexts that helped generate those works. Upon completing this course, students should be able to

- A. demonstrate a familiarity with the literary & cultural characteristics of early American authors;
- B. discuss individual works within broad categories; and
- C. demonstrate the ability to analyze works of literature critically through in-class examinations, class discussion, presentations & handouts, and in a clearly organized and convincingly developed essay.

IV. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

See attached tentative reading list.

V. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

The course will involve ample readings; discussion of those readings; class presentations and handouts about primary and secondary sources; the research, development, writing, and presentation of student papers; and examinations. Students are encouraged (though not required) to keep a reading journal that includes summaries of the text and questions for class.

VI. **FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:** None.

VII. **TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:**

Lauter, Paul, ed. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Concise Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

Also recommended: *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*.

VIII. **EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Students will be graded on completion & accuracy of assignments; thoroughness of work; and insight, development, clarity, organization, and grammatical competency of work, in descending order. Papers should be submitted according to MLA style including student

name, date, type of assignment, and course name in top left. Submit two copies of papers. Late or incomplete papers will receive grade deductions. Save a hard copy of everything before submitting.

Assignments & Grading Scale (A = 90-100):

Exams (3)

Comprehensive Final

Long Paper, Presentation & Handout

**IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

**X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

**Violations of Academic Honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.**

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

## **XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

### Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

### Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889 (TDD).