ENGL 30A American Literature

Surveys major American writers from the colonial period to the 1880s, including representative texts by writers such as Bradstreet, Franklin, Cooper, Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe, Douglass, Whitman, and Dickinson.

Learning Outcomes
1. Critically assess traditional, canonical and non-canonical works of American Literature, from Colonialism to the 19th Century.
2. Create original written and verbal critical analysis, based on original and secondary sources.

Objectives
1. become familiar with American literature from the colonial period to the 1880s.
2. intensively study the major American writers from these periods, including Bradstreet, Franklin, Cooper, Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe, Douglass, Whitman, and Dickinson.
3. place these writers and their works within the relevant historical, social, political, and cultural contexts in which the authors worked.
4. identify the chief literary genres, conventions, and traditions of these periods in American literature.
5. analyze and interpret representative texts from the literature of these centuries.
6. identify and distinguish the various elements of literature and analyze how they contribute to the meanings of individual works.
7. develop lengthy literary critical essays and research papers on the authors and texts covered in the course.
8. identify and apply a variety of theoretical perspectives to the literature studied in the course.
9. appreciate how literature of past centuries illuminates the contemporary human condition.

Assignments
Out-of-class Assignments
1. Literary critical essays.
2. Research and/or term papers.
3. Read book-length works and works from a variety of genres.

In-class Assignments
1. Quizzes and short in-class responses to readings.
2. Short responses to study guide questions.
3. Mid-term and final exams.
4. Oral presentations.
5. Group projects.

Students are expected to spend 3.00 hours in class and 6.00 hours outside of class.
**Evaluation** Substantial writing requirements are appropriate for this course.

**Grading** Letter Grade or P/NP

**Representative Texts**

**History** Approved: 02/04/2011 by Renee Kilmer