

Corby Roberson**Email:** cjroberson@bsu.edu**Class Meeting Time:** Monday and Wednesday 3-415**Class Location:** BU239**Office Hours:** directly after class and by appointment**American Literature Survey: Syllabus**

Course Overview and Goals: Welcome to American Literature from the beginning to now. We will focus our attention on academic and rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as they relate to literature, culture, and the humanities. We will survey the well-known writers, but we will also pay close attention to those voices who have been silenced, such as LGBT+, BIPOC, and women writers. The goal is for students to be able to appreciate the traditional literary canon, while also recognizing the ways in which many voices have been marginalized. To wrap up the class, we will trace lines from the very inception of “America” to today’s current events through literature, art, music, journalism, and other facets of culture. You will be expected to read critically; take copious and beneficial notes; discuss and debate ideas; listen to learn, not respond; and then to produce your own writing and projects to showcase *your* learning and acquired knowledge.

Texts: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature A - E* and *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

My expectations:

- Your punctual presence is required at every class meeting. Punctuality includes having all homework (notes, papers, or projects) finished before class begins. You should bring your reading notes with you either electronically or on paper, and be ready to engage in class and participate in discussion at 3PM when class begins.
- Because of the time of our class, you may bring a snack with you if you need to do so. If this becomes a distraction, we’ll rethink the privilege.
- Always try everything with a respectful attitude. Yes, some things will be difficult, but we get better by stretching ourselves.
- Be academically honest. Plagiarism and cheating are not welcome in our learning community.
- Recognize that being a literary person is a difficult task. There will be a lot of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and I reserve the right to be flexible. What will not make me flexible is complaining about the amount of work you may have for this class.
- Be kind. Be respectful. Be open.

Absence and Tardies: Because we meet only twice a week, your on-time attendance is imperative. You will be counted tardy if you arrive after 3PM. If you arrive after 3:10PM, you will be counted absent. Absence and tardies will be reported to the Office of Academic Life. If you do need to miss a class, you are expected to turn in any assignments that were due (they should be submitted beforehand anyway), you will be responsible for obtaining any assignments you may have missed in class, and you are responsible for getting notes from someone in the class.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted. Your work should be submitted to canvas before class starts, unless your work is a project that will be submitted in class. If you submit the work in class, it must accompany you to class and arrive in a completed state at the beginning of the class period. Generally, I have designed the class, so that your homework is your background knowledge or scaffolding for whatever we will discuss in class, so there is no point in turning it in after we've already completed the discussion.

Technology: Technology can be a useful tool, but it can also be a detrimental bully. I allow technology to be used in our classroom for specific educational purposes, so please bring some form of technology with you each Monday night. I also reserve the right to tell you that your technology is cheating you out of your education, so if I ask you to turn off your technology, that means you've been barred from using it in class for the future.

Academic Dishonesty: Everything you produce as a student says something about who you are and how you want people to perceive you as an academician. That being said, your work for this class should be yours. As part of a learning community, you owe it yourself, your peers, and me to be academically honest. This means making your own claims and supporting them with evidence, which you then cite appropriately. Please refer to the "Academic Honesty" section of your Student Handbook if you do not understand the Academy policy. Please ask questions if there is any doubt in your mind that might be being academically dishonest.

Assignment Weights

Discussion (including leading class) 25%
Weekly One-Pagers 25%
Midterm Paper 20%
Final Paper/Presentation 30%

Grading Scale:

A 95 - 100
A- 90 - 94
B+ 87 - 89
B 83 - 86
B- 80 - 82
C+ 77 - 79
C 73 - 76
C- 70 - 72
D 69 and below

Assignments (these will also be clearly posted each week in canvas, so there will be no confusion about what is due when):

Discussion (every night) - two of the main goals of the class are speaking and listening to learn, so each night, you will be expected to participate in a discussion with me and your peers about the assigned texts, the key here is not to dominate the discussion or make asides or take tangents, but the key is to listen and speak thoughtfully about the topic at hand; make a point, support it with evidence from the text, and then listen to others' comments

Weekly One-Pagers (one per week) - after reading the selections for the week, but before the class in which we discuss them, you will use your own ideas and write a 1 - page response to the text; this can be an analysis, a further exploration of a topic of interest, a comparison with another piece of literature, a global connection, a connection with something you learned in another class, or maybe you need to clarify a thought to bring it into discussion; this is your opportunity for you to shine!

Midterm Paper- TBD; we will discuss this as we progress through the semester, but there will be a writing component and a project component

Final Paper/Presentation- TBD; we will discuss this as we progress through the semester, but there will be a writing component, a project component, and a presentation. There are seven of us and we have a 2.5 hour class, so expect your presentation to be about 15 minutes long.

BSU Diversity and Inclusion: Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found here.

Addendum: Important Literature is often about the deepest and most difficult struggles of humans to live authentically in a complex world. Through the thoughts and experiences of literary characters, we readers can examine and evaluate our personal responses to life's mysteries, complexities, disappointments, and joys. In addition, we begin to understand how a writer, in his or her own struggle to express experience creatively, has responded to the social, political, and artistic environment of his / her times. The English Department at the Academy selects reading material that reflects these human struggles, has endured the test of time, and has earned a respected place in the universe of letters. In addition, the instructors include recently published poems, short stories, and articles that reflect the diversity of contemporary cultures and experiences. If, because of the powerful nature of the reading experience, you are unable to read and study a specific text with reasonable analytic objectivity, please confer with your instructor. Alternative texts (of comparable length and degree of difficulty) are available.

Monday, August 28

Norton Volume A

"John Winthrop," and "A Model of Christian Charity" pp. 147 - 158

"Nehemias Americanus: The Life of John Winthrop, Esq., Governor of the Massachusetts Colony" pp.320 - 333

Wednesday, August 30

Norton Volume A

"The Crisis, No.1" (pp.637 - 643)

"The Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson" (pp.652 - 657)

"On the Equality of the Sexes" (pp.726 - 733)

"To His Excellency General Washington" (pp.761 - 762)

Monday, September 4: LABOR DAY

Wednesday, September 6

Norton Volume B

"Self-Reliance" (pp.1163 - 1180)

"Resistance to Civil Government" (pp. 1857 - 1872)

Monday, September 11

Norton Volume B

"What to the Slave is Fourth of July?" (pp.2140 - 2143)

"Speech to the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, 1851" (p.1695)

"From 'Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak, or Black Hawk'" (pp. 1253 - 1256)

Wednesday, September 13: Most difficult day of reading for this class.

Discipline & Punish "Docile Bodies" and "Panopticism" (on Canvas)

Monday, September 18

Norton Volume B

The Scarlet Letter (1352 - 1399)

Wednesday, September 20: NO CLASS BUT READ ANYWAY

Norton Volume B

The Scarlet Letter (1399 - 1446)

Monday, September 25

Norton Volume B
The Scarlet Letter (1146 - 1493)

Wednesday, September 27

Final discussion over *The Scarlet Letter*

Monday, October 2 and Wednesday, October 4: NO CLASS but I will hold office hours in my classroom to answer questions about midterm papers. You will be required to meet with me on one of these nights. I will provide a sign up sheet with time slots.

MIDTERM PAPER OVER THE FOUCAULT AND *THE SCARLET LETTER* DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

FALL BREAK WEEK OF OCTOBER 9 - 13: Since I teach at Burriss, and our Fall Break is a whole week, you benefit from that, so no class until the 16.

Monday, October 16

Norton Volume C
“Song of Myself, 1 - 6” (pp.30 - 34)
“The Don and His Broad Acres” (pp. 93 - 100)
“[I am alone]” (pp.383 - 384)
“[He has filled graves with our bones]” (pp.385 - 387)

Wednesday, October 18

Norton Volume C
“The Yellow Wallpaper” (pp.808 - 819)

Monday, October 23

Norton Volume C
“The Awakening” (pp. 535 - 580)

Wednesday, October 25

Norton Volume C
“The Awakening” (pp. 580 - 625)

Monday, October 30

Norton Volume C
“from Mob Rule in New Orleans” (pp.854 - 878)

Wednesday, November 1

Norton Volume C

“Twenty Years at Hull House” (pp. 1169 - 1173)

“We Wear the Mask” (p. 1043)

Monday, November 6

Norton Volume D

“Nothing Gold Can Stay” (p. 1403)

“Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” (p. 1448)

“The Red Wheelbarrow” (p.1469)

“In a Station of the Metro” (p. 1482)

“Feminist Manifesto” (p.1502 - 1504)

“The Paper Nautilus” (p.1535)

Wednesday, November 8

Norton Volume D

“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (pp. 1577 - 1580)

“The Lynching” and “If We Must Die” (p.1688)

“somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond” and “anyone lived in a pretty how town” (p.1813)

“I, Too” (p. 2028)

Monday, November 13

Norton Volume E

“Entropy” (pp. 2817 - 2827)

“La consciences de la mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness” (pp.2936 - 2946)

Monday, November 27

The Crucible Act 1 -2 and Appendix

Wednesday, November 29

The Crucible Act 3

Monday, December 4

The Crucible Act 4

Wednesday, December 6

Norton Volume E

“Shoulders” (p.3216)

“Persimmons” (p. 3199)

“from Poetry is Not a Luxury” (pp. 2501)

“A Supermarket in California” (p. 2584)

Monday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 13: NO CLASS but I will hold office hours in my classroom to answer questions about final papers. You will be required to meet with me on one of these nights. I will provide a sign up sheet with time slots.

FINAL PAPER ABOUT ANY TEXT(S) WE’VE COVERED THIS SEMESTER DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Monday, December 18: FINAL CLASS MEETING PREPARE A FIVE MINUTE OVERVIEW OF YOUR FINAL PAPER TO SHARE WITH THE CLASS.