# 19th Century American Literature

# Dong-A University Department of English

# Spring 2013

**Professor:** Joseph Andrew Carrier

**Office Hours:** Consultation by Appointment (A1116)

**Text:** *19th Century American Literature: A Text Book.* Distributed by the instructor.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give the student an overview of the literary trends of 19th Century American literature. We will learn to look carefully at stories, essays, poems, speeches and other forms of literature, attempting to discover their meanings and how they are made. We will do this by analyzing narrative voice, characters, settings, plot, and other key components. At the end of the course the student should have a general knowledge of the main movements of the period, the important authors and their works. Students will also be able to read carefully and seek out the deeper meaning behind the words.

**Standard of Assessment:**

* **Final grades** for this class are based on the following: Attendance: 20%; Journal, 20%; Participation, quizzes and other assignments, 20%; Mid-term Examination, 20%; Final Examination, 20%. The university dictates the use of a bell-curve to calculate final scores relative to other students. A: 30%; B: 40%; C 20%; D+F 10%.
* **Attendance**: 5% will be deducted from the final grade for each absence. Points will not be deducted for absence if the student presents suitable written explanatory documentation (ex. Doctor's note). Late=absent. 5 absences= F.
* **Participation**: You are expected to show up on time, prepared, every day. The classroom is a community in which every member must participate. If you have a comment or question, speak up. Your feedback might be exactly what another student needs to hear at that moment. Your question is probably on the mind of several other people anyway. It is *critical* that you help each other as much as possible. A major portion of your classroom participation grade will be based on your interaction with other students. Needless to say, respect and concern for the welfare of the individuals in this class and the class as a whole is paramount. Also: this class will be conducted entirely in English, although it is ok to explain something to another student in your native language if necessary.
* **Quizzes** will be given periodically to insure that the students are reading the assigned selections and listening carefully to the class lectures. These are designed to reinforce concepts from the class itself so it is important to make sure you understand the material presented in class in order to complete them successfully. Written assignments and short essays may also be assigned from time to time.
* **Examinations** will be given at the midterm and in the final week of the class. They will cover all of the material from the class including both the readings and lectures.
* **Class discipline**: I want class to be fun, but it is everyone's personal responsibility to promote a professional and respectful learning environment. Talking in class while ignoring the instructor, talking or texting or playing games on your cell phone, showing disrespect to the other students, violence, or cheating of any kind will result in a complete loss of that day’s participation points and/or being sent out of class pending disciplinary review.

**Course Calendar:**

This coursework schedule is presented as a blueprint for our semester’s work but it may change a little.

Week One: Introduction

Class One: Syllabus and Introductions. Lecture: "What is Literature, Why Should We Study It and How?"

Class Two: Lecture: "America Before and After Colonization." Native American Texts. [video]

Week Two: Introduction to 19th Century Literature

Class One: Lecture: "Conflicting Ideals: The Enlightenment and Puritanism." Texts: Edwards, Mather, Rousseau, and Payne.

Class Two: Lecture: "Introduction to Romanticism." Comparative Study of Wordsworth and Bryant.

Week Three: Romanticism in America

Class One: Edgar Allan Poe and American Gothic

Class Two: Analysis: "The Tell-tale Heart." (Poe)

Week Four: Emerson, Thoreau, and Transcendentalism

Class One: Lecture: "Transcendentalism." Thoreau, Emerson, Fuller, B. Alcott, and the Peabody Sisters.

Class Two: Analysis: "Walking." (Thoreau)

Week Five: Margaret Fuller and Women's Writings

Class One: Lecture: "Women in the 19th Century."

Class Two: Analysis: "Women..." (Fuller)

Week Six: Harriet Jacobs and Abolitionist Writings

Class One: Lecture: "Slavery in America."

Class Two: "Incidents." (Jacobs) video

Week Seven: The Civil War.

Class One: Lecture: "The Civil War and American Culture."

Class Two: Analysis: "The Gettysburg Address." [video]

Week Eight: University Midterm

Week Nine: Walt Whitman

Class One: Whitman Lecture

Class Two: Analysis: "Song of Myself."

Week Ten: Emily Dickenson

Class One: Dickenson Lecture

Class Two: Analysis: Selected Poems

Week Eleven: Mark Twain

Class One: Twain Lecture

Class Two: Selected Writings

Week Twelve: Ambrose Bierce

Class One: Lecture: "The Civil War in American Literature."

Class Two: Analysis: "An Incident at Owl Creek Bridge."

Week Thirteen: Jack London

Class One: Lecture: "Naturalism and Realism."

Class Two: Analysis: "The Story of Keesh."

Week Fourteen: Sarah Orne Jewett

Class One: Lecture: "Woman in the Twentieth Century."

Class Two: Analysis: "A White Heron."

Week Fifteen: O. Henry

Class One: "WTF is Irony?"

Class Two: Analysis: "The Gifts of the Magi."

Week Sixteen: University Midterm