

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: rgiddens@spsu.edu¹ **Office:** J-318 **Phone:** 678-915-3642

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday • 2-3 pm / Tuesday & Thursday • 10 am-12 pm / & by appointment

Let me know as early as possible if you encounter insurmountable difficulties that interfere with your work & progress in the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

- *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. 6th ed. Ed. Paul Lauter. Volumes A & B.
- Outside texts (as announced: posted on Vista or as in-class or emailed handouts)
 - A college dictionary is highly recommended but not required.
 - Student email account, Vista account, computer & printer access, plenty of paper for printing.

Bring the texts we're using, paper, & pen to all class meetings. Check your SPSU email & Vista often.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Prerequisite:* ENGL 1102

A survey of American literature from the pre-colonial period to the mid nineteenth century. The course includes a variety of literary forms such as poetry, drama, nonfiction, short stories, and novels. The course presents literature as a reflection of culture and the history of ideas.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- be aware of literary and cultural diversities;
- analyze themes and ideas pertinent to American Literature from the pre-colonial age to the mid-nineteenth century; and
- know how historical time and literary movements shape our understanding of literature.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at 678-915-7244 as soon as possible to better insure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

¹ Email is the best way to contact me. I can't guarantee an email answer during the weekends, late at night (after 8 pm), or early in the morning (before 9 am). **Official, professional correspondence for this course is SPSU email only. I will not answer email from personal email accounts, and I especially will not open documents from personal accounts.**

COURSE ORGANIZATION + ASSESSMENT

Reading & Reading Quizzes [10%]

You'll be assigned readings daily. Read actively, taking notes, writing in margins, asking questions, including definitions of newly acquired vocabulary, engaging in a dialogue with the page. Without completing the readings, you'll have a difficult time completing the other course components. Expect **reading quizzes** (ranging from 1-10 questions) of both the announced and pop varieties to be issued at any point during a class session. Any assigned reading has the potential to become quiz material. Reading quizzes cannot be made up (even if you come to class *after* or leave *before* quizzes are administered). If you come into class as a quiz is in progress, you have only the allotted amount of time to finish. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Participation [10%]

When you come to class, be prepared to share your thoughts, questions, and insights about the readings. We will have whole-class discussions on a regular basis, and each member of the class is expected to participate. Not being prepared to participate is the only way to have this grade reduced. Participation grades are reduced **three (3) points** for every day a student does not, but is asked to, participate. **For every absence, a student loses two (2) points off of his/her participation grade.** Ultimately, the success of your learning and the course as a whole depends on the level of student participation. I highly value students' input and look forward to discussing these works with you (captive audience as you may be). Know that your point of view will be respected, even if it differs from others', so long as you respect other members of the class by participating in a mature, respectful way.

Critical Reading Responses [22%]

At the end of most weeks, you'll receive a prompt about the readings to which you'll respond in writing. You'll have an opportunity to revise the *first* of these responses after you gain a feel for how they are evaluated. One reading response grade will be dropped. No responses may be submitted after the due date. Details for writing and submitting responses will be distributed on the second day of class.

Individual Research Project [23%]

By midterm, students will need to propose a topic and narrowed focus about which they would like to independently research. Requirements for the individual research project include: a proposal, an annotated bibliography, an exploratory essay, and a creative component. {Details TBA.}

Midterm Examination [15%]

The midterm exam will include objective, short answer, and essay questions that will cover all the material we've read up to date. If you miss the midterm exam as scheduled, you must make it up within **one** week. It will, of course, be a different version than the original and will include more essay questions.

Whitman Project [5%]

Towards the end of the semester, we'll be reading Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself." In addition to independently reading the entirety of the poem, all students will be assigned a portion of the poem to be read aloud and recorded (by appointment/ not in class) in order to create a collaborative audio version. Afterwards, you'll compose a response to the whole project. Details will be revealed at the appropriate time.

Final Examination [15%] --*KEEP EVERYTHING. * You'll need it for your final exam!

The final exam will be comprised of objective questions that cover ALL of the material we've read during class—with heavy emphasis on material in the last half of the semester schedule—as well as short answer and essay questions. You will need to bring all of your past work in order to complete one of the essay questions. You must sit for the final exam at the time listed in the university schedule (except where the handbook makes exceptions).

GRADING SCALE: A=90-100 ; B=80-89 ; C=70-79 ; D=60-69 ; F=59 & below

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional representation of another person's ideas or writing as one's own, including any materials taken off the Internet. Students should consult the *Catalog* under Academic Regulations for a fuller explanation of this violation of Academic Honesty (53, 66). The penalty for plagiarism may be failure of the course or dismissal from the university. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will earn a 0 with no chance for a re-write *at the very least*, with institutional action being *highly likely*. Only work unique to this course may be submitted (i.e., don't "re-do" an essay you did for another class, etc). Ignorance of plagiarism doesn't excuse it. If you need help understanding plagiarism, please let me know immediately. Any work having been found plagiarized can be failed, even if it was not detected at the time of evaluation.

DECORUM

Please commit completely to every single day in the classroom. Members of the class should:

- be prepared
- participate in whole-class and group activities...the more the merrier!
- turn the sound off of and put away electronic devices. Texting, web-surfing, etc. in class=potential dismissal & incurred absence.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is directly related to the success of students in pretty much any college course. Entering the classroom after class has begun or before class is over is both distracting and disrespectful to the rest of the class. For every three tardies/early departures (leaving before class is over), you will be marked absent for one day. I reserve the right to withdraw you from the course via instructor-initiated withdrawal process if you don't withdraw yourself and have been absent for more than 20% of class meetings by midterm. Beyond midterm, you're on your own. ***For every absence, a student loses two (2) points off of his/her participation grade.***

SUBMITTING WORK

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. As a rule, I DO NOT accept late work.

Students who are absent may submit assignments by email (as .rtf files) **by the beginning** (12:30 pm *sharp*) of the regularly scheduled class time unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor.

PAPER FORMAT

ALL assignments should display the date and the assignment for my reference and yours and should be typed and double-spaced. Be reasonable about font types (non-scripted) and sizes (no larger than 12-point, please) and margins (1-1.25" only). The research project should be presented in MLA format with appropriate in-text & end-text citations. Additionally, conventions of writing about literature are to be upheld. (Use signal phrases, write about lit in present tense, assign due credit to original sources, include page numbers, etc.)

TECHNOLOGY

Printing : Make sure to print out hard copies of assignments due in class BEFORE class begins as **assignments are due at the beginning of class.**

IT : IT problems do not constitute an excuse for late/missing work. If you have problems with email, Vista, Z-drives, your computer, or printing, please seek the guidance of one of many of SPSU's information technology specialists either by phone (678-915-4357, xHELP) or via their homepage (<http://www.spsu.edu/infotech/>). In anticipation of common problems, they've also created a FAQ page for students: <http://www.spsu.edu/infotech/student/faq.html> . Don't rule out consulting your peers for smaller technology issues.

Vista : You'll be able to find almost all course documents, schedule of readings, prompts for responses, the syllabus, etc. on Vista. Learn Vista's features to take full advantage of this learning tool.

THE ATTIC

The **ATTIC** provides opportunities for individualized tutorial assistance to all Southern Polytechnic students. Academic assistants help students through the processes of invention, organization, writing, revising, and editing of essays and research papers. **Students should not expect an editorial or proofreading service.** The ATTIC encourages both student "drop-ins" and faculty referrals. Room J-253 -- Phone: 678-915-7244. **I will recommend visiting the ATTIC to students if there are signs of weakness(es) that need immediate attention.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Your instructor reserves the right to revise the information in this syllabus as necessary so long as it adheres to the department's course objectives and the institution's mission. You will be apprised of changes.
- **Schedules:** Schedules distributed in class are subject to change depending on our class dynamic. Check your SPSU email regularly for updates and be in class so that you're aware of any changes.
- I will provide *some* writing instruction in class; however, you will need to call upon the skills you learned in English 1102 & 1102 in order to complete assigned writings.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 27	Deadline to drop/add
Sept. 7	Labor Day— No Class!
Oct. 8	Midterm grades due
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec. 10	Last day of classes
Dec. 12-16	Final examinations (TBA)
Dec. 21	Grades due
Jan. 11	First day, Spring 2010