

Welcome to what I expect will be a challenging and enriching experience for all of us. Our examination of almost five hundred years' worth of American literature will be in the company of many of the finest writers ever to put ink to paper. We can't help but learn a great deal from them, and, of course, from one another. Your success in the course, though, and the benefits you derive from it, will depend largely on your own engagement and dedication.

In English 10h you will immerse yourself in literature and ideas. You will read and listen closely, think broadly and deeply and be receptive to new perspectives. You will make relevant, discuss and write about what you conclude. You will work to hone your powers of perception and self-expression. You will support your classmates in our adventure together.

The writers we'll study will include...

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca
John Smith
William Bradford
Anne Bradstreet
Jonathan Edwards
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
Phillis Wheatley
William Cullen Bryant
Washington Irving
Edgar Allan Poe
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Henry David Thoreau
Herman Melville
Richard Henry Dana
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Emily Dickinson
Walt Whitman
Frederick Douglass
Abraham Lincoln
Mark Twain
Charles W. Chesnutt
Bret Harte
Henry Adams
Sarah Orne Jewett
Stephen Crane
Jack London
Edith Wharton
Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Edwin Arlington Robinson
Robert Frost
Willa Cather
Edna St. Vincent Millay
Amy Lowell
Langston Hughes
E.E. Cummings
T.S. Eliot
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Sterling Hayden
Zora Neale Hurston
Ernest Hemingway
William Faulkner
William Saroyan
John Steinbeck
Irwin Shaw
Ernie Pyle
Tennessee Williams
Arthur Miller
J.D. Salinger
John Cheever
James Baldwin
Flannery O'Connor
Jack Kerouac
Sylvia Plath
Allen Ginsberg
Joyce Carol Oates
E.L. Doctorow
Mary Oliver
Billy Collins

Expectations

You will come to class on time and prepared--which includes having with you your notebook, something to write with and the pertinent text. Cutting class will not be tolerated.

Your work will be your own, a product of your best effort and appropriate for an honors level course.

You will meet deadlines for all reading and writing assignments. If you anticipate a problem meeting a deadline let me know. Excuses after the fact will fall on unsympathetic ears. One late waiver a quarter is available for written work to those who need it.

You will adhere to the tenets of academic and personal integrity. The consequences of any transgression will be severe.

You will be both courteous to and respectful of others.

You will be open-minded, receptive and responsible.

Assignments

You can expect an average of about forty pages of reading in preparation for each class meeting. Anticipate unannounced quizzes as well as other exercises to encourage and assess your mastery of what you've read, the vocabulary and the craft of writing. Absent students are responsible for making up promptly the work they missed. Do not expect reminders from me.

Grading

Grading will be based on a point system. Your grade will be determined by what percentage the points you earned are of the total possible during each grading period. The significance of an assignment will be reflected in the number of points it is worth. For example, typically formal papers will be worth 25 points. Papers and DEs are worth, roughly, 65% of your grade; participation--again, roughly--20%. Quizzes and other in-class experiences will make up the remaining 15%.

Discussion Essays and Papers

Discussion essays should not be less than 200 words, formal papers not less than 750. Each is due at the beginning of class the day it appears in the syllabus. Late DEs will not be accepted for credit. Late papers will be assessed a ten percent penalty a day. Both must be word-processed in a conventional font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. DEs must be more than just a single paragraph. To get full credit for a DE you must define the word that appears in parentheses with each assignment. Papers must be accompanied by an assessment sheet.