

ENG 253
SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE: EARLY

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Office Hours	Mon 1:00 – 3:00 and Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00
Class Info	CRN 31738 NSH109, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:50
Text:	<i>The Norton Anthology of American Lit, 8th edition, Volumes A & B</i>
Prerequisite:	ENG 253 is the first of a 2-course sequence in American Literature. Note: This series course may be taken individually and out of sequence.

“The one thing in the world of value is the active soul.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Course Description: Welcome to our study of American Literature. They say that in order to understand the meaning of something you have to go back to its origins. In ENG253, we’ll go back to the beginnings of America and explore the literature through Native American stories, European exploration writings, the writings of Colonial America, the Literature of the New Republic, and finally the Literature of the Renaissance. Throughout our study, we’ll appreciate these works in relation to their historical and philosophical backgrounds, in relation to other world literature, and even in relation to other art forms. I encourage you to recognize your own important place as world citizens of the 21st century in understanding the literature of this country and its people.

Learning Outcomes: When you successfully complete ENG253, you should be able to:

- Recognize how American Literature helps in understanding our human condition.
- Recognize literature’s place in American culture and history.
- Demonstrate how Early American Literature enhances our contemporary selves/cultural awareness and creativity.
- Read, write, and talk critically and insightfully about American Literature.
- Write and speak confidently about your own and others’ ideas regarding American Literature.

SUCCESSING IN THIS CLASS WILL REQUIRE THAT YOU HAVE COLLEGE LEVEL WRITING AND READING SKILLS (WRITE AT THE WR121 LEVEL). IF YOU HAVE NOT YET TAKEN WR121, OR AREN’T TAKING IT THIS TERM, PLEASE SEE ME.

“The greatest compliment one ever paid me was to ask me what I thought and then attend to my answer.”

Henry David Thoreau

ENG253 COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance/Discussion Participation (40 points):

Class discussions – in which we all participate – go a long way toward extending and deepening meaning, understanding, and pleasure. I'll provide the focus, concepts, and context as together we will explore this literature. Plan to prepare well before class and to participate in readings, activities, and discussions during class. Question and examine what these readings mean to you. Present and participating earns full credit. Please always be present for class! **You** – your consistent presence and participation – contribute to the integrity of our classroom community. More than three absences will negatively affect your final grade for the course.

The LBCC community is enriched by diversity of all kinds. We all share the privilege of thinking, learning, and working together in an encouraging environment. In our classroom community, we will work toward creating and enjoying a community of mutual respect, appreciation, and goodwill.

Weekly Writings (60 points / 6 of your choice @ 10 points each, due on Thursdays)

Each week I'll give you an *ENG253 Weekly Reading and Writing* handout. The reading is required each week, but the writing is only required six times, i.e. you'll choose six times from the ten weekly possibilities to write. In your writings, you'll compose responses to questions and discussions about our readings. This informal writing will give you the opportunity to discover, analyze, and explain what you think and how you feel about the issues and readings. These writings, which are designed for you to reflect on and synthesize what you are learning, will lead you toward your Formal Essays and provide you with your own writing as foundation. (**Full credit:** turned in on time, represents clear understanding and critical thinking, well developed. **Partial credit:** not turned in on time, or does not represent a clear understanding or clear critical thinking, or is not well developed. Format: one full page [500 words], include word count in header, word-processed, single-spaced.)

Essay One AMERICAN LIT BEGIN TO 1820 (30 points)

Essay Two AMERICAN LIT 1820- 1865 (50 points)

One History/Culture Group Presentation (20 points) OR

Enrichment Events (two event write-ups at 10 points each = 20 points) Choose your own events, on or off campus, related to American Lit class concepts or artists (e.g. speakers, celebrations, exhibitions, club meetings) and write a summary and response. Format for both: one full page [500 words], include word count in header, word-processed, single-spaced.