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English 2613: Survey of American Literature I (Fall 2021)

Texts

- *Heath Anthology of American Literature, Vols. A and B* edited by Paul Lauter (7th edition: 978-1-133-31022-8 and 978-1-133-31023-5)
- Recommended text for those who need composition skills assistance: *Writing With Style* by John Trimble (2nd edition: 0-13-025713-3)

Course Goals

- The class will examine the major authors and early American literary works through the American Romantic movement.
- This course will also examine previously marginalized authors who have only recently been included in the American canon. In particular, this class should reveal to students the origins of American culture and reinforce that our culture is more complex and diversified than previously acknowledged.

Additional information about course objectives can be found on the department webpage, <http://libarts.mwsu.edu/english/>.

Course Requirements

Assignments

% of Grade

Three exams: 45%

Four short essays (two pages in length): 35%

Discussion Board participation: 20%

Final Examination

The third exam will be available from December 4-8.

Grading Policies

In this class, the following numerical equivalents for **final** grades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%.

Submission Format and Policy

All final copies of essays must be uploaded to D2L's dropbox as an attachment in a *Microsoft Word* (not *Works*) document. When submitting thesis statement proposals or early rough drafts, email me directly at greg.giddings@msutexas.edu.

Here's some legal "stuff": By enrolling in this class, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" to all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved *in advance*.

Late Paper/Assignment Policy

I will accept an essay only 24 hours late, and then with a one-letter grade penalty. After 24 hours, I will not accept a late paper.

Other Pertinent Information for this Class

Warning:

This class is writing intensive. Not only is 35% of your grade based on essays, but also a significant percentage of your exams are essay questions. And to clarify, by writing, I mean academic writing. On both the essays and tests, you will be expected to formulate an analytical, subjective thesis statement and support it with well-organized paragraphs.

Here's the problem with an internet class: many of you can't come to my office for one-on-one help. Although I will post numerous examples of successful essays, the "distance" aspect of this class makes improving your compositional skills quite difficult. (However, if you submit rough drafts to me that will likely help your writing, as well as reading the recommended Trimble book.)

Another warning:

Many students sign up for internet course thinking that they will be "easier" than a typical lecture course. That will likely not be the case with this class. I cover the same material and I require just as much work as in a lecture class.

You will quickly realize that this class is reading intensive. (However, we are not in class three hours per week either, so that time and more should be devoted to your reading.) Basically, you will need to be disciplined and diligent to keep up the pace.

I am not trying to scare anyone off, but I also want each of you to understand what to expect.

Discussions: Instead of an in-class discussion, we will collectively engage in a conversation regarding the texts via a Discussion forum. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and clarify any questions or misunderstandings that you might have. Unless specified, you are required to post two questions or comments and two answers or responses to each Discussion forum. While I don't like rigid deadlines in an on-line class, because a conversation involves all of us, not just one voice, I must impose a rigid window on each Discussion Board topic. So you must post your assigned questions or comments (usually two) by the week's end. You may answer questions or post a response to a comment the next week—even through the weekend. After that week, I will lock the discussion forum. So to get Discussion forum credit, you must meet those deadlines. Of course, this class participation is 20% of your semester's grade; plus engaging in our conversation will likely increase your understanding of the assigned texts. So keep up on the Discussion Board.

Study Advice: Take notes on the background discussions of the works and authors. A substantial amount of important information is not in your text. Therefore, pay attention to the online questions and answers and to the notes that I post. In addition, read closely and interact with the text. This is one of the best ways to get the most out of a work. And finally, pay close attention to the comments that I make in the videos. Obviously, what I mention in these videos are ideas that I think are important, and these observations often reappear in the exams.

Essays:

During the semester, you are responsible for turning in four short essays of between 1 ½ and 2 pages in length. These will be your response to the reading assignments and questions that I ask. Although you must turn in four, you may write as many as you like as long as you stay on schedule, and I will average the grades from your best efforts. (I have many handouts to post on this topic, including a number of examples.)

PLAGIARISM is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will **not be tolerated**, whether intentional or not.

Unfortunately, plagiarism is rampant in today's English classes, with much of the problem stemming from the Internet. In English 2613, you will discuss your thoughts and interpretations. This class requires NO research. So utilizing the Internet for information is not only unnecessary; it is *verboten* (forbidden). In other words, do not "copy and paste" because every single word, phrase, and thought on your essays should be yours, not something "borrowed" from another source.

If the instructor catches a student plagiarizing in essays (including submitted drafts) or during test responses, the following is the minimum penalty: the student will receive a zero for the assignment, and the instructor will report the incident and sanction to the English Department chair. In turn, he or she will then notify the Dean of Students, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Registrar of the incident and sanction. If you plagiarize again, I will drop you from the class.

For your exams, I will utilize Lockdown Browser in D2L. To do well, you will have to be familiar with major ideas of the material. And these tests will include at least one essay question.

As earlier stated, the online discussion will also involve a bit of writing. With that in mind, please realize that you are not text messaging your friends. So with that being said, we will communicate in COMPLETE, coherent sentences, without abbreviations. In other words, Standard Written English is required in your essays, as well as your posts to the Discussion Boards. (And any email to me should be written in Standard Written English.)

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Safe Zones Statement

The professor considers this classroom, even a virtual classroom, to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

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| Contacting Your Instructor | All instructors in the Department have voicemail in their offices and MSUTexas e-mail addresses. Make sure you add your instructor's phone number and e-mail address to both email and cell phone lists of contacts. (You are certainly welcome to call me, but I would prefer, if possible, that most messages be left via email.) |
| Attendance Policy | I will check participation on the Discussion forums, and I may drop anyone who is negligent in contributing to our course conversation. |
| Tutoring Support | <p>Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Please see our schedule for more information about times and offerings. <i>Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.</i></p> <p>Some departments also provide tutoring. Check the "Tutoring at MSU" tab in the portal for more information about all campus tutoring opportunities.</p> <p>For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the Distance Education Tutoring course to book an appointment with a tutor. If you are a distance education student (i.e. you live more than 50 miles from MSU and are in all online courses), but you do not see this course pop up under your courses, please contact Ashley Hurst.</p> |
| Writing Proficiency Requirement | All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam, passing two Writing Intensive courses, or passing English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website or call 397-4131. |
| Schedule of Readings and Assignments | See syllabus. |