

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AMERICAN LITERATURE I—SUMMER 2014

Eng 211 AC

DR. HAROLD WILLIAM HALBERT

TTh 8:00 AM to 10 AM | Parkhouse Hall 117



Montgomery County
Community College

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Office: Parkhouse Hall 441	Office Hours: MTWTh 7:30 AM to 8:00AM, and by appointment. Please email to arrange.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a chronological survey of American literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War. Significant works of American writers are studied for their literary value and in their historical and philosophical contexts.

PREREQUISITES: Students may take this course after completing the composition requirement of their curriculum.

COURSE OBJECTIVES The student will demonstrate the ability to

- Analyze great works of American literature both for insight and enjoyment.
- Appreciate chronologically the various movements and writers of American literature from the Colonial Period through the Civil War.
- Comprehend various writers in terms of their relationship to the American tradition and to their own age, and in terms of their influence, both stylistic and thematic, on later artists.
- Understand the writers' places in the history of American literature: their relationship to the American tradition and to their own age, and their stylistic and thematic influence on later artists.
- Recognize excellent literature by reading and analyzing the best models available.
- Understand that the past is not remote, but that literature expresses mankind's deepest feelings and is therefore both universal and contemporary.
- Develop self-awareness through increase of critical abilities.

COURSE CONTENT My courses are designed to deal with adult issues often centering around controversial cultural and historical conflicts. At times, the class readings, lectures, and discussions may question ideas or beliefs that individual students hold dear. In addition, the language used in the course may range from highly technical jargon to the vernacular, including profanity. Students who wish to avoid such a classroom environment should seek another section of the course.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, 7th Edition, Vols. A & B (with MLA supplement)
- Post-It Brand book marking tabs
- Access to the MLA Style Guide with the 2009 Update
- Pen and paper for each class
- 2 5" x 8" Index cards

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: English 211 will be one of the most challenging courses of your academic career because it moves quickly, requires a wide range of academic skills, and demands more time than the average course. In addition to an intensive reading load (with reading checks to document your marginalia), each student will write two major papers (a literary interpretation and a research paper), prepare two exam guides, take a mid-term and final exam, develop an annotated bibliography, and use the discussion board extensively to post drafts and comments on readings. A breakdown of the assignments and relative point values is as follows:

Final drafts of papers	200 points
Exams	100 points
MS Word Assignment for Final Papers	21 points
Quote Assignments	20
Annotated bibliographies	40 points
Individual drafts of papers	0-20 points, depending on completeness
Required emails and posts	-5 points if not completed
Submitting final drafts to Turnitin.com	Zero on final draft if not done
In-class essays	20 and 50 points
Reading checks	5 points
Exam Guides	20 points
Formal responses and peer reviews	20 points

Your grade is calculated by adding the total points earned and then dividing them by the total points possible. That average will then be plugged into the college's grading scale.

Transcript/Entry

Numerical Grade	Corresponding letter grade	Percent Equivalent
4.0	A	93.6-100%
3.7	A-	89.5-93.5%
3.3	B+	87.5-89.4%
3.0	B	83.5-87.5%
2.7	B-	79.5-83.4%
2.3	C+	77.5-79.4
2.0	C	69.5-77.4%
1.3	D	63.5-69.4%
0.0	F	0-63.4%

Be advised that ***you must complete all major papers in order to pass the course.*** Even if your paper is too late to be accepted under the late work policies, it must be completed by the end of the semester. If it is not, then you will automatically fail for the course, regardless of what your point total is.

MAJOR PAPER REWRITE OPTION In order to allow students to benefit from the three-step writing process and to turn in the best possible work for evaluation, students will be permitted to revise the first graded major paper in the course for an entirely new grade provided the assignment/essay was handed in on time and without plagiarism. Late or plagiarized papers are ineligible for revision. Note: Just turning in a revision does not guarantee you will receive a higher grade. In the event that the revised draft grade is actually lower than the original assignment, you will receive the higher of the two grades; however, a higher revision grade always replaces the original grade, so if you are prepared to work hard, your grade will most likely benefit. See the class web page for more information on the major paper rewrite. Please see the class web page's assignments section for more explicit details.

COLLEGE POLICIES: All College policies must be followed and are a binding part of this syllabus. Details on the Student Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/sa/conduct.htm>.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Plagiarism constitutes a serious breach of academic honesty and will not be tolerated. Unless I deem an act of plagiarism or cheating an honest mistake, I routinely assign students an "F" in the course for any act of academic dishonesty without the option of withdrawing from the course. Especially egregious acts will receive an "FX" with an additional notation of academic misconduct on the student's transcript. Please note that submitting work from another class as original work for this course constitutes academic dishonesty. For a full discussion of the Academic Honesty policies, please see <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/aa/ethics.htm>. All students in my English courses will submit their papers to TurnItIn.com, a tool that checks your papers against other sources. You will have a chance to see your report and revise it before the final draft is due, should you choose.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) welcomes qualified students with disabilities and endorses the principles of nondiscrimination and reasonable accommodation as described in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To see if you are eligible for services and reasonable accommodations in this course please review the policy on the Disabilities web site at <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/sa/disable.htm>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Students may miss four class meetings and remain in the course. The fifth absence will result in an automatic F in the course. At the start of the semester, each student will receive 12 points of extra credit for attendance. Points lost for tardiness or absences will initially be taken from this pool of points, giving students the flexibility to miss two classes without injury to their grades. Each absence will subtract five points from a student's total points scored for the semester. Each late arrival will subtract two points from the total points scored. A point will be awarded for each class attended. If a student knows he or she will miss a class, that student should alert Dr. Halbert beforehand. Under special circumstances (usually involving a documented medical emergency or a death in the family), you may request permission to remain enrolled in the course if your absences have exceeded four, but such circumstances are rare. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet at the start of class: students arriving after the sign-in sheet will be marked tardy. If you arrive late, please wait until the end of class to sign the sheet. Failure to sign the sheet at all constitutes an absence. Students who leave class early must ask for permission prior to the start of class; if you leave without permission before I dismisses the class, you will be marked absent for the whole period. Good manners suggest that if you know you will miss a class meeting, you will contact me and let me know.

CLASS CANCELLATION: In the event of inclement weather or other emergency, the MCCC School Closing Code is 320 for day classes and 2320 for evening classes. Announcements will be made on KYW (1060 AM) and other local stations. In the event that I

have to cancel a class, I will email the class and post a message on Blackboard (assuming I have power at home to access the Internet).

WITHDRAWAL POLICY, INCOMPLETES, AND AUDITS: Should you wish to withdraw from the course, If you do not formally withdraw, you will receive an F for the course even if you stop attending. ***My general practice is to not sign any withdrawal requests unless you have a documented emergency.*** Applications for an "Incomplete" will only be entertained in cases of documented medical emergencies or military call-ups. Audits will not be permitted unless you start the course as an audit student and can convince me that you are willing to do all that work for no grade.

TURNING IN MAJOR PAPERS When the final draft of a major paper is due, you will need to do the following:

- Submit a copy to the dropbox on Blackboard for the paper. ***This file is what will actually be graded, so make sure it is the final version and not a prior draft.***
- Post a copy to the discussion board in the "Final Draft" forum.
- Submit the paper to Turnitin.com and get a receipt. Papers not submitted to Turnitin.com receive zeros. See handout for log-in information.

LATE WORK All work is due at the beginning of class on the day listed for the syllabus unless otherwise noted. I hate late work from students: it complicates my ability to grade or simply keep track of your work. More importantly, it devalues the efforts of your classmates who work very hard to meet their deadlines. To discourage late work, I have the following policy:

- Final drafts of papers lose 25 points (out of the possible 200 points) for each 24-hour period they are late. This penalty includes Saturdays and Sundays.
- Other late assignments have a 24-hour period to be submitted. They will be graded, and that grade will be divided by 2 and entered into the grade spreadsheet.

Late work will kill your grade, so don't do it. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to complete a task, contact me for an extension. I reserve the right to make an exception to the late policy in the case of an extreme (and documentable) emergency, but that almost never happens.

TUTORIAL SERVICES: Tutorial Services, located on the lower floor of College Hall in Room 180, has computers that students may use. In addition, help from professional tutors on papers for English and other courses is available on a walk-in basis. Use of the Tutorial Services is strongly encouraged: I've run centers like this, used centers like this, and I believe they are a valuable resource for both struggling and gifted writers because they provide a pair of professional eyes to review a paper and give writers the kind of feedback we all want. Contact them at 215-641-6452 or log into the portal and find us online at <https://mymccc.mc3.edu/allcampusresources/academicaffairs/lal/Pages/default.aspx>.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: As adults, students and the instructor should know to do the following in class:

- Be prepared for class with work completed and required materials available.
- Refrain from non-class related conversations once class has started.
- Keep cell phones and pagers in "silent" mode and refrain from answering them or using them to send text messages. Should a student expect an important call (because of family emergencies or issues of similar magnitude), please make the instructor aware of that possibility before class.
- Inform the professor if you will be recording the class.
- Treat each other with mutual respect: while we can challenge each other's ideas in class, personalized attacks or use of inappropriate language directed at another member of the class community is unacceptable.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Make the most of this course. It will help in the future.

FINAL WORD:

I enjoy teaching literature courses: I believe they can be the most empowering classes a person can take in college because the skills you learn can help you in virtually every part of your life. I took this job to help people discover their potential: as long as you are willing to do the work, I will do everything in my power to help you not only pass the course, but to be the best writer you can be.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

Please note: if you are using a different edition or if the page numbers do not line up, please use your index to find the appropriate reading in your textbook.

Monday, May 19., 2014

- First Class.

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

- Email Contact information to Dr. Halbert at hhalbert@mc3.com. See handout for specific information and link for spreadsheet template. (1 point for doing, -5 for not doing)
- Read and mark "How to Really Read This Book" (Course Documents). (1 point)
- Read, initial, and sign your contract for the course. (1 point for doing, -5 for not doing)
- Read and mark the following documents in this order (textbook and in Course Documents):
 - "Creation of the Whites" (Yuchi myth; Heath Vol. A, 77)
 - "The Arrival of the Whites" (Lenape-Delaware oral tradition; Heath Vol. A, 78-84)
 - "Iroquois or Confederacy of the Five Nations" (Heath 62-65)
 - "Cluster: America in the World/The World in America" (background essay; Heath 107-109)
 - from *Utopia* (Thomas More; Heath 110)
 - from *Of Cannibals* (Michel de Montaigne; Heath 110-111)
 - "[America](#)" by Theodor Galle (picture, Heath 111)
 - from *New Atlantis* (Francis Bacon; Heath 113)
 - Bartolome de las Casas "A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies" (Heath 114-115)
 - "Requerimiento" (Palacios Rubios; boxed text Heath 117-118)
 - "Christopher Columbus" (background essay; Heath 122-123)
 - Excerpt from *The Diario of Christopher Columbus's First Voyage to America 1492-1493*; handout (See "Course Documents" in Blackboard)
 - "Cluster: Aesthetics and Criticism—Paradigms of Cultural Encounters" (136-146) 5 points
- Please set up mail forwarding if you do not check your Montco email very often so that official school emails will reach you.

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

- Read and mark the following Selections from the Heath Vol. A:
 - from *Relation of Alvar Nunez Cabez de Vaca* (147-161)
 - "The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt" (259-263)
 - "The History of the Miraculous Apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe" (Vol A.231-240)

Thursday, May 22, 2014

- Read and mark the following Selections from the Heath Vol. A:
 - All of the selections by John Smith (Vol A.315-329)
 - From Richard Frethorne, to His Parents (Virginia, 1623) (Vol A. 330-334)
 - "New England" (overview; Vol A. 359-364) 10 points

Monday, May 26, 2014

- No Class: Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

- Warning: There is a lot of work here, so space it out over the days between classes.
- "New England" (overview; Vol A. 359-364) 10 points
- Read and mark the entire William Bradford section (Vol A. 397-421) 5 points

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

- Read and mark **the entire** Thomas Morton section (Vol. A 364-378)
- Read and mark the following selections from Anne Bradstreet:
 - "Anne Bradstreet 1612?-1672" (Vol A. 437-438)
 - "The Prologue [To Her Book]" (Vol A. 439-441)
 - "The Author to Her Book" (Vol A. 445)
 - "The Flesh and the Spirit" (Vol A. 446-448)
 - "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" (Vol A. 448-449)
 - "To My Dear and Loving Husband" (Vol A 449)
 - "A Letter to Her Husband, Absent Upon Public Employment" (Vol A. 449-450)
 - "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet, Who Deceased August, 1665, Being a Year and Half Old" (Vol A. 450-451)
 - "On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet, Who Died on 16 November, 1669, being but a Month, and One Day Old" (Vol A. 451)

- "Upon the Burning of Our House July 10th, 1666" (Vol A.451-452)
- "To My Dear Children" (Vol A. 452-455)

Thursday, May 29, 2014

- Read and mark the following selections from Cotton Mather:
 - "Cotton Mather 1663-1728" (Vol A. 452-454)
 - from *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (Vol A. 555-560)
 - from *The Negro Christianized* (Vol A. 573-578)
 - from *Bonifacius . . . With Humble Proposals . . . to Do Good in the World* (Vol A. 579-580) 5 points
- There will be an open-book test on *The Negro Christianized*: you will need to write an essay (with quotes) that discusses if the text is a pro-slavery message or a means of undermining the validity of slavery.

Monday, June 2, 2014

- Draft of Paper #1 Due. Must be complete with MLA Works Cited page. 0-20 points depending on completeness of draft.
- Post a copy of the paper in the "Paper 1: Draft Forum" on the discussion board. (1 point if completed, -5 if not).

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

- Read and mark the following from Jonathan Edwards:
 - "Jonathan Edwards 1703-1758" (Vol. A 700-701)
 - from *Images of Divine Things* (Vol A. 702-704)
 - "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (Vol A. 723-735)

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

- Read all of the selections of William Byrd II (Vol A. 662-687)
- Exam quotation assignment due. Email a copy to Dr. Halbert as an MS Word or Rich Text Format attachment. 20 points.
 - Please rename the file according to this convention: **Lastname_Firstname_211_quotes1.doc or .rtf.** (-2.5 if not renamed)
 - Email the file to hhalbert@mc3.edu.

Thursday, June 5, 2014

- Read and mark "Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790" (Vol A. 910-912)
- Read and mark selection from *The Autobiography* (935-983: stop at the Part Two). **WARNING: This reading is long.**

Monday, June 9, 2014

- **CLASS CANCELLED: Turn in all electronic versions of the paper by 11AM Today.**
- Final Draft of Paper #1 Due. See Checklist for Paper #1 in the handouts section for envelope contents. 200 points.
- Submit the final draft to Turnitin.com. (1 point for doing, zero on paper if not completed)
- Post a copy of the paper in the "Paper #1 Final Draft" forum. (1 point if posted, -5 if not)
- Post a copy to the Paper #2 Dropbox. (1 point if completed, -5 if not)
 - Please rename the file according to this convention: **Lastname_Firstname_211_p1.doc or .rtf.** (-2.5 if not renamed)
- You should start reading Franklin's *The Autobiography*. It's long!

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

- Read the entire Thomas Paine section (Vol A 1045-1065)
- Read the following selections by Phillis Wheatley:
 - "Phillis Wheatley 1753-1784 (Vol A 1348-1350)
 - "To Mīcenas" (Vol A 1350-1351)
 - "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for North-America, &c" (Vol A 1352-1353)
 - "On Being Brought from Africa to America" (Vol A 1357)
 - "To the University of Cambridge, in New England" (Vol A 1359)
 - "To His Excellency General Washington" (Vol A 1361-1362)
 - "Liberty and Peace, A Poem by Phillis Peters" (Vol A 1363-1364)

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

- **Midterm Exam. Bring completed exam card with you.**
- Start reading Douglass when you are done with the exam!

Thursday, June 12, 2014

- Library Research Day. Sign in with Dr. Halbert in the library (College Hall).

- Read mark the introduction to Frederick Douglass and the first seven chapters of the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*

Monday, June 16, 2014

- Finish reading and marking the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, (Vol. B. 2163-2234)
- WARNING: THIS ASSIGNMENT IS THE LONGEST READING OF THE SEMESTER. PACE YOURSELF.
- In-class essay on Frederick Douglass. See Assignments section for details.

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

- Read and Mark in Vol. A, pages 1065-1073 on John and Abigail Adams
- Read and mark all the selections by Sarah Moore Grimke and by Angelina Grimke (VOL B. 2444-2454)
- Read and mark "Declaration of Sentiments" (Vol B. "Elizabeth Cady Stanton" 2473-2475 + "Declaration of Sentiments" 2477-2479)
- Read and mark the entire Fanny Fern Section (Vol B. 2462-2473)

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

- Read and mark the following selections by Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - "Ralph Waldo Emerson" (Vol B. 1822-1825)
 - "Nature" (Vol B. 1826-1828)
 - "Beauty" (Vol. B. 1829-1833)
 - *Self-Reliance* (Vol B. 1868-1887)

Thursday, June 19, 2014

- **NO CLASS. Work on annotated bibliography.**

Friday, June 20, 2014

- **NO CLASS. Annotated Bibliography Assignment due to my email (hhalbert@mc3.edu) by 11:59 PM as an attachment.**

Monday, June 23, 2014

- Draft of Paper #2 Due. Must be complete with MLA Works Cited page. 0-20 points depending on completeness of draft.
- Post a copy of the paper in the "Paper 2: Draft Forum" on the discussion board. (1 point if completed, -5 if not).

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

- Read and mark the following the following by Henry David Thoreau:
 - "Henry David Thoreau" (Vol B. 1976-1979)
 - "Resistance to Civil Government" (Vol B. 1979-1995)
- Read and mark the following selections from Washington Irving:
 - "Washington Irving" (Vol B. 2299-2301)
 - from *A History of New York*, Chapter 5 (Vol B. 2301--2309)
- Read the following selections from In Focus: Humor of the Old Southwest:
 - introduction (Vol B.2485-2487, including the ad)
 - All of the selections by Davy Crockett (Vol B. 2488-2491)
 - All of the selections by Mike Fink (Vol B. 2491-2492)

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

- Second Exam quotation assignment due. Email a copy to Dr. Halbert as an MS Word or Rich Text Format attachment. 20 points.
 - Please rename the file according to this convention: **Lastname_Firstname_211_quotes2.doc or .rtf**. (-2.5 if not renamed)
 - Email the file to hhalbert@mc3.edu.
- Read and mark the following selections from Edgar Allen Poe:
 - "Edgar Allen Poe" (Vol B. 2691-2693)
 - "The Fall of the House of Usher" (Vol B. 2706-2720)
 - "The Tell-Tale Heart" (Vol B. 2727-2731)
 - "The Purloined Letter" (Vol B. 2731-2745)
 - "The Raven" (Vol B. 2764-2767)
 - "Annabel Lee" (Vol B. 2570-2768)

Thursday, June 26, 2014

- Read and mark the following from Walt Whitman:
 - "Walt Whitman 1819-1892" biography (Vol B. 2992-2995)
 - "I Hear America Singing" (Vol. B. 3287)

- "When I heard at the Close of Day" (Vol. B. 3291)
- "Ethiopia Saluting the Colors" (Vol. B 3311)
- "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (Vol. B 3312-3319)
- "To a Locomotive in Winter" (Vol. B 3321)

Monday, June 30, 2014

- LAST CLASS.
- Final Draft of Paper #2 Due. See Checklist for Paper #2 in the handouts section for envelope contents. 200 points.
- Submit the final draft to Turnitin.com. (1 point for doing, zero on paper if not completed)
- Post a copy of the paper in the "Paper #2 Final Draft" forum. (1 point if posted, -5 if not)
- Post a copy to the Paper #2 Dropbox. (1 point if completed, -5 if not)
 - Please rename the file according to this convention: **Lastname_Firstname_211_p2.doc or .rtf.** (-2.5 if not renamed)

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

- NO CLASS. Summer 1 classes are over.
- Optional Major Paper Rewrite due by 10:15 AM in my email account. Please rename the file **Lastname_Firstname_102_p#REV.doc or .rtf.** See Major Paper Rewrite Guidelines in the assignment section of the class web page for instructions.