Syllabi Are Alive - Check for Updates Regularly

THE AMERICAN LIT EXPERIENCE
HU2501.R01

Fall 2010, Fisher 125, TR 9:35-10:50am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The American Lit Experience is a survey of American Literature from Native American oral traditions to 1865, covering early movements and authors in the development of the uniquely American literary voice.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Volume One: Beginnings to 1865.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

M. Bartley Seigel
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POLICIES AND GRADING

First, simple and straight forward, students must fulfill their coursework responsibilities, without excuse, seldom early and never late. Late assignments will never be accepted unless arrangements are made prior to the deadline. Emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Second, students should bear in mind that integrity and ethics are central components of a student’s education and the ethical conduct maintained in an academic context will be taken seriously into a student’s life both professional and personal. Which is to say that both integrity and ethics are taken very seriously in Prof. Seigel’s courses. DO NOT CHEAT. If a student is caught cheating, they can expect the harshest possible punishment, not a slap on the wrist.

Third, in terms of access, Michigan Tech and Prof. Seigel encourages ALL qualified persons to participate in its programs and activities. If students anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please contact Prof. Seigel as soon as possible and/or visit the Office of Student Affairs or phone 487-2951.

Fourth, concerning grading, students can expect the following:

A (4) = Excellent. Student exceeds all course expectations.
A/B (3.5) = Very good. Student exceeds most course expectations, but not all.
B (3) = Good. Student meets all course expectations, exceeding many.
B/C (2.5) = Above average. Student meets all course expectations, exceeding some.
C (2) = AVERAGE. STUDENT MEETS ALL COURSE EXPECTATIONS.
C/D (1.5) = Below average. Student meets some, but not all course expectations.
D (1) = Inferior. Student meets few of the course expectations.
F (0) = Failure. Student meets few to none of the course expectations.
COURSEWORK

Attendance and Participation (25%):
Come to class every day, prepared.
Have completed the day’s reading and write a typed, 350-word (minimum), single-spaced response
to it (see below).
Meet all deadlines; late assignments will not be accepted without previous arrangements.
Ask questions in class and participate in discussions.
Prof. Seigel reserves the right to fail students who amass more than three unexcused absences.

Daily Response Papers (25%):
For every class, students are expected to write a 350-word response to the day’s assigned reading.
Typed, Times or similar font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced, name and date in the top right-hand corner.
Drafted and revised. Spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics count. Truly egregious writing will be returned
ungraded and counted late.
Key word, “response”. So respond. Like, dislike, why and why is a visceral reaction important (hint, it
probably isn’t). Why is this piece of writing important? To whom and why? What are the cultural, social,
historical, political implications of the writing? To whom why? What questions need to be asked of or
about the writer/writer? Etc. Students should pay attention in class and draw from lectures accordingly.
Last, think of the response paper of a transcript for in-class discussion.
Utilize the Writing Center.

Midterm Exam (25%): TBA.

Final Exam (25%): TBA.

COURSE CALENDAR, FALL 2010

Week 1
Tue 08:31: Intro to the course.
Thu 09:02: Native American Origin and Creation Stories (Pg. 3-59).

Week 2
Tue 09:07: Explorations and Early Encounters (Pg. 61-91).
Thu 09:09: Colonial Settlements (Pg. 93-152). Smith, Bradford, Winthrop, Bradstreet

Week 3
Tue 09:14: Colonial Settlements (Pg. 153-189)
Thu 09:16: Colonial Settlements (Pg. 191-251)

Week 4
Tue 09:21: Colonial Settlements (Pg. 252-309).
Thu 09:23: American Literature 1750-1830 (Pg. 312-333).

Week 5
Tue 09:28: Writing Colonial Lives (Pg. 335-389).
Thu 09:30: Writing Colonial Lives (Pg. 390-426).

Week 6
Tue 10.05: American Contexts (Pg. 427-465).
Thu 10.07: Literature for a New Nation (Pg. 467-542).

Week 7

Tue 10.12: Literature for a New Nation (Pg. 543-584).
Thu 10.14: MID-TERM EXAM.

Week 8

Tue 10.19: American Literature, 1830-1865 (Pg. 589-605).
Thu 10.21: The Era of Reform (Pg. 607-653).

Week 9

Tue 10.26: The Era of Reform (Pg. 653-725).
Thu 11.02: The Era of Reform (Pg. 725-791).

Week 10

Tue 11.02: The Era of Reform (Pg. 792-854).
Thu 11.04: The Era of Reform (Pg. 855-933).

Week 11

Tue 11.09: American Facts and American Fiction (Pg. 935-965).
Thu 11.11: American Facts and American Fiction (Pg. 966-1018).

Week 12

Tue 11.16: American Facts and American Fiction (Pg. 1018-1072).
Thu 11.18: American Facts and American Fiction (Pg. 1072-1134).

Week 13

Tue 11.30: American Facts and American Fiction (Pg. 1134-1193).
Thu 12.02: New Poetic Voices (Pg. 1195-1235).

Week 14

Tue 12.07: New Poetic Voices (Pg. 1236-133).
Thu 12.09: New Poetic Voices (Pg. 1314-1533).

FINAL EXAM TBA.