DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

English 203
U.S. Literature to 1865
Dr. Keith O’Neill
Spring 2015


Course Description (from the College Catalogue): A study of significant selections from the Colonial Period to the Civil War, including poetry, essays, short stories and novels with emphasis on Hawthorne, Thoreau, Melville, Poe and Whitman. Prerequisite: ENG 102.

Course Objectives. By the end of the semester students in English 203 should:

- demonstrate a familiarity with a wide selection of U. S. literature produced between 1620 and 1865;
- demonstrate a familiarity with the characteristic themes, literary genres, and style of important writers of this period;
- recognize those characteristics of a work which place it in a historical, intellectual, or literary tradition such as Puritanism, the Age of Reason, or Romanticism; and
- demonstrate analytical reading and writing skills such as:
  - asserting an effective thesis and supporting it in well-developed body paragraphs;
  - supporting a point about a literary work with evidence from the text;
  - presenting and documenting this evidence in accordance with MLA form; and
  - defining and using correctly in written work terms which are common in literary analysis, including *theme, imagery, metaphors and other figurative devices, ambiguity, and symbolism*.

Weekly Syllabus

January 21  Introduction

            John Winthrop, *A Model of Christian Charity* (A166-177)


February 2  Mary Rowlandson, “A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson” (A257-288)


February 9  Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (A526-596)

*The Federalist*, No. 10 (A681-686)
February 16  NO CLASS
February 18  EXAM 1
February 23  Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” (B30-41); “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (B41-62)
February 25  Edgar Allan Poe, “The Raven” (B637-640) “The Fall of the House of Usher” (654-667); “The Tell-Tale Heart” (B691-695); “The Purloined Letter” (B701-714)

March 2  Nathaniel Hahorne, “The May-Pole of Merry Mount” (B401-409); “Young Goodman Brown” (B 386-395); The Scarlet Letter (Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter (B499-550)
March 9  Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter (B550-594)
March 11  Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature (B214-243)
March 16  NO CLASS
March 18  NO CLASS
March 23  Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The Divinity School Address” (B256-269); “The Poet” (B295-310)
March 25  Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government” (B964-979)
March 30  EXAM 2
April 1  Harriet Jacobs, from Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (B921-942)
April 6  Frederick Douglass, “Narrative of a Life of a Slave” (B1174-1208)
April 8  Frederick Douglass, “Narrative of a Life of a Slave” (B1208-1239)
April 13  Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener” (B1483-1509)
April 15  Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno” (B1526-1551)
April 20  Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno” (B1552-1582)
April 22  Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself” (B1330-1374)
April 27  Walt Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (B1383-1387); “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking (B1387-1392); “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer (B1392); When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d” (B1402-1408); “Live Oak, with Moss” (B1416-1420)
April 29  Emily Dickinson, selected poems (B1663-1682)
PAPER DUE
May 4  Emily Dickinson, selected poems (B1683-1700)
May 6  Rebecca Harding Davis, “Life in the Iron Mills” (B1706-1732)
May 11  FINAL EXAM
May 13  FINAL EXAM

Course Policies:
Quizzes/Attendance - There is no official policy for attendance, since it is of course your choice to attend class regularly. No one will be dropped for not showing up to class. At the beginning of each class, however, there will be a brief reading quiz to make sure that you are coming to class prepared. There will be no
make-ups to missed quizzes, so missing class regularly (or coming late) will affect this portion of your grade significantly.

Plagiarism - I have a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism, the intentional (or unintentional) use of someone else's work as your own. This is cheating, plain and simple, and it's a waste of the money you spent on tuition. If you are caught plagiarizing, I will give you a zero for the assignment, and you may be reported to Dean's office.

Classroom Expectations – This is a college classroom, and thus I will expect adult, intellectually mature behavior from everyone in the room. Classroom discussion is strongly encouraged, but side conversations are inappropriate. You are expected to be on time for class, and your textbook is absolutely mandatory. Also, please turn off your cell phone and put it away until class is over. Anyone who does not cooperate with these parameters may be asked to leave the room.

Assignments/Grade Determination:

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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Quizzes/Attendance</td>
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Please note that this is a working syllabus: assignments and due dates are subject to change. I will provide updates and detailed reading assignments throughout the semester. Please remember to visit the course website regularly:

http://faculty.suny dutchess.edu/oneill