

E f316K • Masterworks of Literature: American

Instructor: Lesser, W

Unique #: 83025

Semester: Summer 1/2010

Cross-lists: n/a

Areas: n/a

Flags: n/a

Restrictions: none

Computer Instruction: n

Prerequisites: Completion of at least thirty semester hours of coursework, including E 603A, RHE 306, 306Q, or T C 603A, and a passing score on the reading section of the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) test.

Description: We will survey major works of American literature from colonial times to the present. We will read each of our texts in reference to its “historical context,” and we will define our highlighted contexts on the bases of Puritan (17th century), Enlightenment (18th century), Modernist (early 20th century), and contemporary thought. In addition, we will examine some of our selections – particularly those authored by women and people of color – as reconfigurations or confrontations with the ideals contained within the highlighted contexts.

Texts: *Concise Anthology of American Literature* (6th Edition), George McMichael, editor ((Pearson).
Supplemental Packet (a professor’s packet containing the lecture outlines and additional required readings).

The packets are available at Jenn’s Copy, 2200 Guadalupe

Requirements & Grading:

Examinations: Exam #1: 6/21 & 6/22; Exam #2: 7/9 (2:00-5:00)

Semester Grades: Exam #1: 45%; Exam #2: 55%. We will be using plus and minus grade designations this semester. Each exam will be calibrated on a four-point scale, rounded to the second decimal. We will use two scales: one for evaluated work and one for the course grade. For evaluated work: A =4.0; A- = 3.67; B+ = 3.34; B = 3.0; etc. For the calculation of course grades: the bar you must reach for an A = 3.8; for an A- = 3.6; for a B+ = 3.3; for a B = 2.8; for a B- = 2.6; etc

Schedule:

6/3 & 6/4: Introductory Remarks; Puritan Backgrounds

6/7: William Bradford, from *Of Plimouth Plantation* (55-73)

6/8: Edward Taylor, “Meditation #39”

6/9: Ann Bradstreet, “Before the Birth of One of Her Children”

6/10: Mary Rowlandson, from *A Narrative of the Captivity* (149-165)

6/11: **Instructor-led class discussion**

6/14: Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”

6/15: Enlightenment Backgrounds: B. Franklin, from *The Autobiography* (198-258)

6/16: Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”

6/17: Herman Melville. “Bartleby the Scrivener”

6/18: **Instructor-led class discussion**

6/21: **Exam #1 (Part #1)**

6/22: **Exam #1 (Part #2)**

6/23: American Transcendentalism

6/24: Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature”

6/25: **Instructor-led class discussion**

6/28: Henry David Thoreau, from *Walden* (782-837)

6/29: Stephen Crane, “The Blue Hotel” (in packet) & William Dean Howells, “Editha”

6/30: Richard Wright, “The Man Who Was Almost A Man” & Zora Neal Hurston,
“How It Feels To Be Colored Me” (in packet)

7/1: William Faulkner, “That Evening Sun” and Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”

7/2: **Instructor-led class discussion**

7/5: Emily Dickinson, #303 and Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck” (in packet)

7/6: Literary Modernism & Robert Frost, “Birches”

7/7: Leslie Marmon Silko, “Storyteller” (in packet) & Raymond Carver, “Cathedral”

7/8: **Instructor-led review session in lecture hall**

Policies:

Grade Appeals: All grade appeals must be made *in writing* to the Instructor who graded your exam. You will receive a written response within two days. If you are unsatisfied with that response, you may submit the correspondence and exam to me. I will review the entire dossier and make a final decision, which may result in a lowering, a raising, or a sustaining of the original grade.

Taping Of Lectures: Students may **not** tape lectures without the professor's authorization.

Absenteeism: Attendance will be taken each day. You are allowed three unexcused absences during the semester. Additional absences may affect your grade in the course

Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Web Site: n/a

Instructors: Professor Wayne Lesser (lesser@mail.utexas.edu)
Office: Parlin 218
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00

Teaching Assistants: (office hours and locations to be announced)

Mr. Kirby Brown
Ms. Colleen Eils
Ms. Crystal Kurzen
Ms. Laine Perez