



Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages

Lit 4000 American Literature to 1900: The American Renaissance

3 Units

Spring 2024

Tues/Thur 1:30-2:45	Karl Martin, PhD
BAC 155	Phone: 2275
Final Exam: Tues. 4/30 1:30-2:45	Email: karlmartin@pointloma.ed
Office location and hours:	BAC 113, Mon-Fri 11:00-Noon

### **PLNU Mission**

#### **To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

### **Course Description**

An advanced study of selected authors and movements in American literature from its origins until 1900. The course will offer students the opportunity to study a limited number of texts in greater depth than is possible in a survey course. This semester we will examine books published during what is traditionally called the American Renaissance.

### **Program and Course Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete Lit 4000 will

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
  - a. Standard literary terminology
  - b. Modes/genres of literature
  - c. Elements of literary genres
  - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)

- e. Contemporary critical approaches
  - f. Extra-literary research
3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
  4. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works employing secondary sources and applying concepts of literary study and literary theory.

**Required Texts**

Dickinson, Emily, *The Complete Poems*  
 Hawthorne, Nathaniel, *Selected Tales and Sketches*  
 Melville, Herman, *Moby-Dick*  
 Poe, Edgar Allan, *The Portable Edgar Allan Poe*  
 Stowe, Harriet Beecher, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*  
 Whitman, Walt, *Leaves of Grass* (1855)

**Assessment and Grading**

Grades will be based on the following:

Mid-Term Essay	30%
Seminar Leadership	10%
Critical Paper	20%
Final Essay	30%
Participation	10%

**Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages**

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

**Final Examination Policy**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of

those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

### **Spiritual Care**

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the Office of Spiritual Life and Formation.

### **PLNU Copyright Policy**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

### **PLNU Academic Honesty Policy**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

## **Language and Belonging**

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

## **Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination**

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at [counselingservices@pointloma.edu](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://pointloma.edu/title-ix).

## **PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy**

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

## Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

### Reading Schedule:

Tues. 1/9 Introduction to the Course

Thur. 1/11 Poe, "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Premature Burial," "Ligeia,"

Tues. 1/16 Poe, "William Wilson," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado"

Thur. 1/18 Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Purloined Letter," all selections from the Critical Principles section, "Literary Nationalism"

Tues. 1/23 Poe, all selections from Poems

Thur. 1/25 Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineaux," "Roger Malvin's Burial," and "Young Goodman Brown"

Tues. 1/30 Hawthorne, "Wakefield," "The May-Pole of Merry Mount," and "The Man of Adamant"

Thur. 2/1 Hawthorne, "The Artist of the Beautiful," "Rappaccini's Daughter," and "Ethan Brand"

Tues. 2/6 Melville, Chapters 1-23

Thur. 2/8 Melville, Chapters 24-43

Tues. 2/13 Melville, Chapters 44-66

Thur. 2/15 Melville, Chapters 67-85

Tues. 2/20 Melville, Chapters 86-109

Thur. 2/22 Melville, Chapters 110-130

Tues. 2/27 Melville, Chapters 131-Epilogue

Thur. 2/29	Midterm Essay Due
Tues. 3/12	Stowe, Chapters I-VII
Thur. 3/14	Stowe, Chapters VIII-XII
Tues. 3/19	Stowe, Chapters XIII-XVIII
Thur. 3/21	Stowe, Chapters XIX-XXV
Tues. 3/26	Stowe, Chapters XXVI-XXXIV
Thur. 3/28	<b>No Class Session in Honor of Maundy Thursday</b>
Tues. 4/2	Stowe, Chapters XXXV-XLV
Thur. 4/4	Whitman, Whitman's Introduction
Tues. 4/9	Whitman, "Song of Myself"
Thur. 4/11	Whitman, remaining poems
Tues. 4/16	Dickinson, Selected poems
Thur. 4/18	Dickinson, Selected poems
Tues. 4/23	Dickinson, Selected poems; <b>Critical Paper Due</b>
Thur. 4/25	Dickinson, Selected poems
<b>Tues. 4/30</b>	<b>Final Exam, 1:30-4:00</b>