



Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages

Lit 400: American Literature to 1900:

The American Renaissance

3 Units

Spring 2018

Meeting days: Tuesday and Thursday	Instructor title and name: Karl Martin, PhD
Meeting times: 1:30-2:45	Phone: 2275
Meeting location: BAC 102	E-mail: karlmartin@pointloma.edu
Office location: BAC 113	Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 1:30-2:30; Tues., Thur., and Fri. 11:00-Noon
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 1 st 1:30-4:00	

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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire 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 has historically called the American Renaissance.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete Lit 400 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*

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Selected Essays*

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Selected Tales and Sketches*

Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick*

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass* (1855)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading: Dates for the readings are clearly indicated on the schedule. Read daily if possible and complete all reading on time.

Discussion: The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of our daily discussions. Each of you must feel comfortable contributing to discussions. And each of you should bring any questions you have about the reading to our attention during the course of our discussions.

Writing: Each student will complete a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a 5-7 page essay concerning the critical reception of one of the works or some aspect of American life in the mid-nineteenth century. Students cannot pass the course without completing all three of these major assignments. Late work will receive a ten percent deduction daily and will not be accepted when the value would be zero or below.

Seminar Discussion Leadership: In groups of two or three, you will be called upon to lead the conversation twice during the semester.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See Academic Policies in the undergrad student catalog.

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 Class Schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

In the rare case that a student is scheduled for more than three (3) final examinations on the same day, the student is authorized to contact each professor in order to work out an alternate time for one of those examinations. Department chairs/school deans and college deans need not be involved in the process of making this accommodation.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Sample assignment distribution by percentage:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

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

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional scale will be used. Those who earn more than 90% of the possible points earn an A, those who earn between 80-89% of the points earn a B, and so on.

A indicates exceptional work (roughly 20% of students normally achieve this level)

B indicates superior work (roughly 30% of students normally achieve this level)

C indicates average work

D indicates passing work

F indicates unsatisfactory work

READING SCHEDULE

Lit 400 Spring 2018

Thur. 1/11	Introduction to the Course
Tues. 1/16	Emerson, "Nature"
Thur. 1/18	Emerson, "The American Scholar" and "Self-Reliance"
Tues. 1/23	Emerson, "The Over-Soul," "The Transcendentalist," and "Experience"
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. 3/1	Mid-Term Exam
Tues. 3/6—Thur. 3/8	Spring Break
Tues. 3/13	Stowe, Chapters I-VII
Thur. 3/15	Stowe, Chapters VIII-XII
Tues. 3/20	Stowe, Chapters XIII-XVIII
Thur. 3/22	Stowe, Chapters XIX-XXV
Tues. 3/27	Stowe, Chapters XXVI-XXXIV
Thur. 3/29	No Class Session in Honor of Easter
Tues. 4/3	Stowe, Chapters XXXV-XLV
Thur. 4/5	Whitman, Whitman's Introduction
Tues. 4/10	Whitman, "Song of Myself"
Thur. 4/12	Whitman, remaining poems
Tues. 4/17	Dickinson, selected poems
Thur. 4/19	Dickinson, selected poems
Tues. 4/23	Dickinson, selected poems
Thur. 4/25	Dickinson, selected poems
Tues. 5/1	Final Exam 1:30-4:00