

	Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages
	Lit 2056: American Writers I
3 Units	
Fall 2021	

MWF 8:30-9:25 Rohr Hall 112	Karl Martin, PhD
Office: BAC 113 Phone: Ext 2275	Email: karlmartin@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> 7:30-10:00	Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00, TR 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

### **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**

Literature 2056 is designed to provide students with an in-depth survey of American literature—represented by all its major genres—from its origins until near the end of the Civil War. Because the course provides a general survey, special attention will be given to the literature’s cultural context.

#### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the Conclusion of the Course Students will be able to:

- Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
- Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
  - Standard literary terminology
  - Modes/genres of literature
  - Elements of literary genres
  - Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
  - Contemporary critical approaches
  - Extra-literary research
- Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
- Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that examine several of the fundamental concepts of literary study.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES**

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Volume A: Beginnings to 1820, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Volume B: 1820-1865, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition*

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

*Reading Responses:* Seven times during the semester—but never more than once a week—each student will post to Canvas a response to the daily reading. Together, these seven responses will constitute 7% of the total grade. Details concerning the responses will be posted on Canvas. On the days you complete a response, you will be expected to participate in the discussion more fully than your fellow classmates.

*Reading Reflection:* Once during the semester, I would like you to revisit a text from earlier in the semester in light of something else you have read and reflect on how your later reading changed your reaction to the earlier work. Your response should be about two paragraphs in length. This response will constitute 1% of the total grade.

*Personal Response:* Some time during the semester, select two works that reveal an aspect of American culture you wish to either celebrate or lament. Write one celebratory response and one lament. Your responses should be about two paragraphs in length and will constitute 2% of the total grade.

*Discussion:* The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of daily discussions. Each of you should 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 two 3-5 page essays written outside of class. Each of the exams will include a written portion. The final exam will contain comprehensive elements. Students cannot pass the course without completing all four of these major assignments. Late essays will receive a ten percent daily deduction and will not be accepted when the value would be zero.

*Oral Presentations:* Once during the semester students will give an oral presentation on a prose writer. And once during the semester each student will give an oral presentation on a poem in the anthology but not a part of the assigned reading.

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Essay #1	15%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Essay #2	15%
Prose Presentation	4%
Poetry Presentation	1%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	5%
Responses/Reflections	10%

Grades will be based on the following:

#### Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
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	

### STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

### 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](mailto: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.

## **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 drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

## **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 students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### READING SCHEDULE FOR LIT 2056: AMERICAN WRITERS I

*Always read the editor's introduction. When no page numbers are given, you are expected to read the entire selection.*

Tues. 8/31	Introduction to the Course and Syllabus Review
Wed. 9/1	"Beginnings to 1820," 3-28
Fri. 9/3	Native American Oral Literature, 29-57
Mon. 9/6	<b>No Class Session in Honor of the American Labor Movement</b>
Wed. 9/8	Columbus, 58-66; de Las Casas, 66-71; and de Vaca, 71-79
Fri. 9/10	William Bradford, 129-67; and Cotton Mather, 321-22 and 328-34
Mon. 9/13	John Winthrop, 176-89; Cotton Mather 334-51, and The Bay Psalm Book, 198-202
Wed. 9/15	Anne Bradstreet, 217-49
Fri. 9/17	Michael Wigglesworth, 249-66; and Samuel Sewall, 309-20
Mon. 9/20	Edward Taylor, 301-308
Wed. 9/22	Mary Rowlandson, 267-301; <b>Essay #1 Assigned</b>
Fri. 9/24	Jonathan Edwards, 356-402
Mon. 9/27	"American Literature and the Varieties of Religious Expression," 403-39
Wed. 9/29	Ben Franklin 466-530
Fri. 10/1	Thomas Paine 681-89; Thomas Jefferson 702-10
Mon. 10/4	Occom, 585-608 and Phillis Wheatley, 787-99
Wed. 10/6	Olaudah Equiano, 731-69; <b>Essay #1 Due</b>
Fri. 10/8	Royall Tyler, 799-841
Mon. 10/11	Hannah Webster Foster 841-872
Wed. 10/13	Hannah Webster Foster 872-903
Fri. 10/15	Hannah Webster Foster 903-941
Mon. 10/18	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
Wed. 10/20	"American Literature 1820-1865," 3-24
Fri. 10/22	<b>Fall Break</b>
Mon. 10/25	Washington Irving, 25-62
Wed. 10/27	Ralph Waldo Emerson, 210-36
Fri. 10/29	Ralph Waldo Emerson, 236-53
Mon. 11/1	Henry David Thoreau, 950-68
Wed. 11/3	Henry David Thoreau, 969-1022 and 1136-44
Fri. 11/5	Fuller, 722-59; "The Declaration of Sentiments" from the web
Mon. 11/8	Edgar Allan Poe, 629-42 and 662-70
Wed. 11/10	Edgar Allan Poe, 676-89
Fri. 11/12	Nathaniel Hawthorne, 368-88

Mon. 11/15 Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, 451-96 (Chapters I-IX)  
Wed. 11/17 Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, 496-534 (Chapters X-XVII)  
Fri. 11/19 Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, 534-69 (Chapters XVIII-XXIV); **Essay #2 Assigned**

Mon. 11/22 Harriet Jacobs, 909-31  
Wed. 11/24-Fri. 11/26 **No Class Sessions in honor of Thanksgiving**

Mon. 11/29 Frederick Douglass, 1159-1190  
Wed. 12/1 Frederick Douglass, 1190-1228  
Fri. 12/3 John Rollin Ridge, 1638-1653; **Essay #2 Due**

Mon. 12/6 Herman Melville, 1469-95  
Wed. 12/8 Walt Whitman, 1312-56  
Fri. 12/10 Emily Dickinson, 1654-96

**Wed. 12/17 7:30-10:00 Final Exam**