

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AMERICAN LITERATURE I—FALL 2014

Eng 211 HC

DR. HAROLD WILLIAM HALBERT

TTh 8:00 AM to 10 AM | Parkhouse Hall 120



Montgomery County
Community College

Office Phone: 215.641.6371 Website: http://www.halhalbert.com	Email: hhalbert@mc3.edu Office: Parkhouse Hall 441
Office Hours: W&F 7:30 AM to 7:55 AM T&Th 11:05 to Noon	Writing Center Hours: M, W, F 10:30-Noon & Tuesday 1:30 to 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a chronological survey of American literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War. Significant works of American writers are studied for their literary value and in their historical and philosophical contexts.

PREREQUISITES: Students may take this course after completing the composition requirement of their curriculum.

COURSE OBJECTIVES The student will demonstrate the ability to

- Analyze great works of American literature both for insight and enjoyment.
- Appreciate chronologically the various movements and writers of American literature from the Colonial Period through the Civil War.
- Comprehend various writers in terms of their relationship to the American tradition and to their own age, and in terms of their influence, both stylistic and thematic, on later artists.
- Understand the writers' places in the history of American literature: their relationship to the American tradition and to their own age, and their stylistic and thematic influence on later artists.
- Recognize excellent literature by reading and analyzing the best models available.
- Understand that the past is not remote, but that literature expresses mankind's deepest feelings and is therefore both universal and contemporary.
- Develop self-awareness through increase of critical abilities.

COURSE CONTENT My courses are designed to deal with adult issues often centering around controversial cultural and historical conflicts. At times, the class readings, lectures, and discussions may question ideas or beliefs that individual students hold dear. In addition, the language used in the course may range from highly technical jargon to the vernacular, including profanity. Students who wish to avoid such a classroom environment should seek another section of the course.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, 7th Edition, Vols. A & B (with MLA supplement)
- Post-It Brand book marking tabs
- Access to the MLA Style Guide with the 2009 Update
- Pen and paper for each class
- 2 5" x 8" Index cards

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: English 211 will be one of the most challenging courses of your academic career because it moves quickly, requires a wide range of academic skills, and demands more time than the average course. In addition to an intensive reading load (with reading checks to document your marginalia), each student will write two major papers (a literary interpretation and a research paper), prepare two exam guides, take a mid-term and final exam, develop an annotated bibliography, and use the discussion board extensively to post drafts and comments on readings. A breakdown of the assignments and relative point values is as follows:

Final drafts of papers	200 points
Exams	100 points
MS Word Assignment for Final Papers	21 points
Quote Assignments	20
Annotated bibliographies	40 points
Individual drafts of papers	0-20 points, depending on completeness
Required emails and posts	-5 points if not completed
Submitting final drafts to Turnitin.com	Zero on final draft if not done
In-class essays	20 and 50 points
Reading checks	5 points
Exam Guides	20 points
Formal responses and peer reviews	20 points

Your grade is calculated by adding the total points earned and then dividing them by the total points possible. That average will then be plugged into the college's grading scale.

Transcript/Entry

Numerical Grade Corresponding letter grade Percent Equivalent

4.0	A	93.6-100%
3.7	A-	89.5-93.5%
3.3	B+	87.5-89.4%
3.0	B	83.5-87.5%
2.7	B-	79.5-83.4%
2.3	C+	77.5-79.4
2.0	C	69.5-77.4%
1.3	D	63.5-69.4%
0.0	F	0-63.4%

Be advised that ***you must complete all major papers in order to pass the course***. Even if your paper is too late to be accepted under the late work policies, it must be completed by the end of the semester. If it is not, then you will automatically fail for the course, regardless of what your point total is.

MAJOR PAPER REWRITE OPTION In order to allow students to benefit from the three-step writing process and to turn in the best possible work for evaluation, students will be permitted to revise the first graded major paper in the course for an entirely new grade provided the assignment/essay was handed in on time and without plagiarism. Late or plagiarized papers are ineligible for revision. Note: Just turning in a revision does not guarantee you will receive a higher grade. In the event that the revised draft grade is actually lower than the original assignment, you will receive the higher of the two grades; however, a higher revision grade always replaces the original grade, so if you are prepared to work hard, your grade will most likely benefit. See the class web page for more information on the major paper rewrite. Please see the class web page's assignments section for more explicit details.

COLLEGE POLICIES: All College policies must be followed and are a binding part of this syllabus. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to guide students to understand their responsibilities in regard to appropriate behavior and respect for others in the college community. The policy addresses classroom disruptions and removal from the classroom for behavioral issues. It also provides the standards for ensuring the College provides due process to students through the judicial process. The policy and procedure is found at <http://www.mc3.edu/about-us/policies/125>

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Plagiarism constitutes a serious breach of academic honesty and will not be tolerated. Unless I deem an act of plagiarism or cheating an honest mistake, I routinely assign students an "F" in the course for any act of academic dishonesty without the option of withdrawing from the course. Especially egregious acts will receive an "FX" with an additional notation of academic misconduct on the student's transcript. Please note that submitting work from another class as original work for this course constitutes academic dishonesty. For a full discussion of the Academic Honesty policies, please see <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/aa/ethics.htm>. All students in my English courses will submit their papers to TurnItIn.com, a tool that checks your papers against other sources. You will have a chance to see your report and revise it before the final draft is due, should you choose.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) welcomes qualified students with disabilities and endorses the principles of nondiscrimination and reasonable accommodation as described in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To see if you are eligible for services and reasonable accommodations in this course please review the policy on the Disabilities web site at <http://www.mc3.edu/policy/sa/disable.htm>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Students may miss four class meetings and remain in the course. The fifth absence will result in either a required withdrawal from the course (before the **October 24, 2014**, deadline) or an automatic F in the course (after the **October 24, 2014**, deadline for withdrawal without a signature). At the start of the semester, each student will receive 12 points of extra credit for attendance. Points lost for tardiness or absences will initially be taken from this pool of points, giving students the flexibility to miss two classes without injury to their grades. Each absence will subtract five points from a student's total points scored for the semester. Each late arrival will subtract two points from the total points scored. A point will be awarded for each class attended. If a student knows he or she will miss a class, that student should alert Dr. Halbert beforehand. Under special circumstances (usually involving a documented medical emergency or a death in the family), you may request permission to remain enrolled in the course if your absences have exceeded four, but such circumstances are rare. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet at the start of class: students arriving after the sign-in sheet will be marked tardy. If you arrive late, please wait until the end of class to sign the sheet. Failure to sign the sheet at all constitutes an absence. Students who leave class early must ask for permission prior to the start of class; if you leave without permission before I dismisses the class, you will be marked absent for the whole period. Good manners suggest that if you know you will miss a class meeting, you will contact me and let me know.

CLASS CANCELLATION: In the event of inclement weather or other emergency, the MCCC School Closing Code is 320 for day classes and 2320 for evening classes. Announcements will be made on KYW (1060 AM) and other local stations. In the event that I have to cancel a class, I will email the class and post a message on Blackboard (assuming I have power at home to access the Internet).

WITHDRAWAL POLICY, INCOMPLETES, AND AUDITS: Students are encouraged to consult with their instructor and/or an academic advisor when initiating a Course Withdrawal. The instructor's permission must be requested and received if requesting a withdrawal after 60% and before 75% of the course is completed. After 75% of the course is completed, students may apply for an Excused Withdrawal due to medical, catastrophic, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. Specific dates of deadlines for this semester can be found at <http://www.mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/deadlines>

Should you wish to withdraw from the course, the deadline to withdraw without my signature is October 24, 2014. If you do not formally withdraw, you will receive an F for the course even if you stop attending. ***After October 24, 2014, I will not sign any withdrawal requests unless you have a documented emergency. If I have not returned the first paper by this date, I will extend the deadline until one week after that paper is returned.***

The absolute last day to get my signature is November 7, 2014. After that, all requests to withdrawal must be made directly to the Dean of Arts and Humanities.

Applications for an "Incomplete" will only be entertained in cases of documented medical emergencies, incarceration, or military call-ups. Audits will not be permitted unless you start the course as an audit student and can convince me that you are willing to do all that work for no grade.

TURNING IN MAJOR PAPERS When the final draft of a major paper is due, you will need to do the following:

- Submit a copy to the dropbox on Blackboard for the paper. ***This file is what will actually be graded, so make sure it is the final version and not a prior draft.***
- Post a copy to the discussion board in the "Final Draft" forum.
- Submit the paper to Turnitin.com and get a receipt. Papers not submitted to Turnitin.com receive zeros. See handout for log-in information.

LATE WORK All work is due at the beginning of class on the day listed for the syllabus unless otherwise noted. I hate late work from students: it complicates my ability to grade or simply keep track of your work. More importantly, it devalues the efforts of your classmates who work very hard to meet their deadlines. To discourage late work, I have the following policy:

- Final drafts of papers lose 25 points (out of the possible 200 points) for each 24-hour period they are late. This penalty includes Saturdays and Sundays.
- Other late assignments have a 24-hour period to be submitted. They will be graded, and that grade will be divided by 2 and entered into the grade spreadsheet.

Late work will kill your grade, so don't do it. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to complete a task, contact me for an extension. I reserve the right to make an exception to the late policy in the case of an extreme (and documentable) emergency, but that almost never happens.

TUTORIAL SERVICES: Tutorial Services, located on the lower floor of College Hall in Room 180, has computers that students may use. In addition, help from professional tutors on papers for English and other courses is available on a walk-in basis. Use of the Tutorial Services is strongly encouraged: I've run centers like this, used centers like this, and I believe they are a valuable resource for both struggling and gifted writers because they provide a pair of professional eyes to review a paper and give writers the kind of feedback we all want. Contact them at 215-641-6452 or log into the portal and find us online at <https://mymccc.mc3.edu/allcampusresources/academicaffairs/lal/Pages/default.aspx>.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: As adults, students and the instructor should know to do the following in class:

- Be prepared for class with work completed and required materials available.
- Refrain from non-class related conversations once class has started.
- Keep cell phones and pagers in "silent" mode and refrain from answering them or using them to send text messages. Should a student expect an important call (because of family emergencies or issues of similar magnitude), please make the instructor aware of that possibility before class.
- Inform the professor if you will be recording the class.
- Treat each other with mutual respect: while we can challenge each other's ideas in class, personalized attacks or use of inappropriate language directed at another member of the class community is unacceptable.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Make the most of this course. It will help in the future.

FINAL WORD:

I enjoy teaching literature courses: I believe they can be the most empowering classes a person can take in college because the skills you learn can help you in virtually every part of your life. I took this job to help people discover their potential: as long as you are willing to do the work, I will do everything in my power to help you not only pass the course, but to be the best writer you can be.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

Thursday, August 28, 2014

- First Class

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

- Email contact information to me at hhalbert@gmail.com. See handout for exact information sought and pay careful attention to the subject heading and email account address I'd like you to use. Read, sign, and return your contract. See Handouts section of the class web page for the contract)
- Read "How to Really Read This Book" (Download from the Course Documents section of the class web page)
- Read and mark the following documents in this order (if you don't have the text yet, you can download these from Course Documents):
 - "Creation of the Whites" (Yuchi myth; Heath Vol. A, 77)
 - "The Arrival of the Whites" (Lenape-Delaware oral tradition; Heath Vol. A, 78-84)
 - "In Focus: America in the World/The World in America" (background essay; Heath 107-109) (please note this section is called "Cluster: America in the European Imagination" if printed from course documents)
 - from *Utopia* (Thomas More; Heath 110)
 - from *Of Cannibals* (Michel de Montaigne; Heath 110-111)
 - *America* (Painting, Heath 111)
 - from *New Atlantis* (Francis Bacon; Heath 113)
 - "Requerimiento" (Palacios Rubios; boxed text Heath 117-118)
 - "Christopher Columbus" (background essay; Heath 122-123)
 - Excerpt from *The Diario of Christopher Columbus's First Voyage to America 1492-1493*; Handout.
 - "Cluster: Aesthetics and Criticism—Paradigms of Cultural Encounters" (136-146)
- Be prepared to have your first reading check. **Putting tabs in the text to mark what you read** will help speed up the process.
- Please set up mail forwarding if you do not check your Montco email very often so that official school emails will reach you.

Thursday, September 4, 2014

- Read and mark the following Selections from the Heath Vol. A:
 - from *Relation of Alvar Nunez Cabez de Vaca* (147-161)
 - "History of the Miraculous Apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe in 1531" (231-240)
 - "The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt" (259-263)

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

- Read and mark the following Selections from the Heath Vol. A:
 - All of the selections by John Smith (Vol A. 315-329)
 - From *Richard Frethorne, to His Parents* (Virginia, 1623) (Vol A. 330-334)
- Read and mark "New England" (overview; Vol A. 359-364)
- We will discuss the September 18th in-class essay.

Thursday, September 11, 2014

- NO CLASS: I will be at Drexel University attending an academic conference.
- Read and mark the entire William Bradford section (Vol A. 397--421). Keep pace with the reading even though we don't have class.
- No office hours today.

Friday, September 12, 2014

- NO CLASS: we do not meet on Fridays.
- No office hours today.

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

- Read and mark the entire Thomas Morton section (Vol. A 364-378)
- Read and mark the following selections from Anne Bradstreet:
 - "Anne Bradstreet 1612?-1672" (Vol A. 437-438)
 - "The Prologue [To Her Book]" (Vol A. 439-441)
 - "The Author to Her Book" (Vol A. 445)
 - "The Flesh and the Spirit" (Vol A. 446-448)
 - "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" (Vol A. 448-449)
 - "To My Dear and Loving Husband" (Vol A 449)

- "A Letter to Her Husband, Absent Upon Public Employment" (Vol A. 449-450)
- "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet, Who Deceased August, 1665, Being a Year and Half Old" (Vol A. 450-451)
- "On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet, Who Died on 16 November, 1669, being but a Month, and One Day Old" (Vol A. 451)
- "Upon the Burning of Our House July 10th, 1666" (Vol A.451-452)
- "To My Dear Children" (Vol A.452-455)

Thursday, September 18, 2014

- Read and mark the following selections from Cotton Mather:
 - "Cotton Mather 1663-1728" (Vol A. 452--454)
 - from *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (Vol A. 555-560)
 - from *The Negro Christianized* (Vol A. 573-578)
 - from *Bonifacius . . . With Humble Proposals . . . to Do Good in the World* (Vol A. 579-580)
- There will be a test on *The Negro Christianized*: you will need to write an essay (with quotes) that discusses if the text is a pro-slavery message or a means of undermining the validity of slavery. Everyone is required to take this exam. See handout on exam card preparation.

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

- Read and mark the following from Jonathan Edwards:
 - "Jonathan Edwards 1703-1758" (Vol. A 700-702)
 - from *Images of Divine Things* (Vol A. 702-704)
 - "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (Vol A. 723-735)

Thursday, September 25, 2014

- Read all of the selections of William Byrd II (Vol A. 662-687)
- Sign up for Turnitin.com and add our class. See handout for details.

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

- Read and mark the entire Thomas Paine section (Vol A 1045-1065)

Thursday, October 2, 2014

- Paper #1 Prewriting Due. Post a copy in the "Paper #1: Prewriting" forum on the discussion board.
- Two-Minute Presentations on Paper Topic
- Exam Quote Assignment #1 Due. Submit your quotation assignment to the Blackboard Drop Box by the start of class.

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

- Draft of Paper #1 Due. Bring a copy to class and post a copy to the discussion board in the "Paper #1: Draft" forum. (20 points)
- The draft will be assessed according to the following scale: 20 points for a full draft with works cited, 15 for 4 pages without a works cited, 10 for 3 pages, 5 for 2 pages, and 2 for 1 page.
- We will go over the midterm exam essay options.

Thursday, October 9, 2014

- Read the entire J. Hector St. John De Crèvecoeur section (Vol. A, 1006-1045)

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

- NO CLASS.
- Final Draft Paper #1 Due. See checklist for details.

Thursday, October 16, 2014

- Midterm Exam.

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

- Read and mark "Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790" (Vol A. 910-912)
- Read and mark selection from *The Autobiography* (935-983: stop at the Part Two). **WARNING: This reading is long.**

Thursday, October 23, 2014

- Read and mark in Volume A the following essays by Benjamin Franklin:
 - "The Way to Wealth" (913-919)
 - "A Witch Trial at Mount Holly" (919-920)
 - "The Speech of Polly Baker" (920-922)
 - "Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America" (927-931)
 - "On the Slave Trade" (931-933)

- "Speech in the Convention" (933-935)

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

- Read and mark Vol A, pages 1065-1073 on John and Abigail Adams
- Read and mark all the selections by Sarah Moore Grimke and by Angelina Grimke (VOL B. 2444-2454)
- Read and mark "Declaration of Sentiments" (Vol B. 2477-2479)
- Read and mark the entire Fanny Fern Section (Vol B. 2462-2473)

Thursday, October 30, 2014

- Read and mark the introduction to Frederick Douglass and Chapters 1-9 of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, (Vol. B. 2163- 2199).
- No Class. Instead, post a two-page response to the reading in the "Frederick Douglass Reaction" forum. In your response, identify a specific moment, quote, or scene in the text that you found particularly compelling and describe (using quotes with parenthetical citations) how Douglass is attempting to persuade/manipulate the readers to feel a specific way about that scene. This post must be completed by noon. (10 points)

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

- Finish reading and marking *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, (Vol. B. 2199-2234)
- We will have our in-class essay exam on Frederick Douglass today. Bring your exam card.

Thursday, November 6, 2014

- Read the following selections by Phillis Wheatley:
 - "Phillis Wheatley 1753-1784 (Vol A 1349-1350)
 - "To Mīcenas" (Vol A 1350-1351)
 - "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for North-America, &c" (Vol A 1352-1353)
 - "On Being Brought from Africa to America" (Vol A 1357)
 - "To the University of Cambridge, in New England" (Vol A 1359)
 - "To His Excellency General Washington" (Vol A 1361-1362)
 - "Liberty and Peace, A Poem by Phillis Peters" (Vol A 1363-1364)
 - We will also check the Douglass reading today.

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

- Read and mark the following selections from Washington Irving:
 - "Washington Irving" (Vol B. 2505-2506)
 - from *A History of New York*, Chapter 5 (Handout in Course Documents)
- Read the following selections from In Focus: Humor of the Old Southwest:
 - introduction (Vol B.2484-2487, including the ad)
- All of the selections by Davy Crockett (Vol B. 2488-2491)
- All of the selections by Mike Fink (Vol B. 2491-2492)

Thursday, November 13, 2014

- Read and mark the following selections by Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - "Ralph Waldo Emerson" (Vol B. 1822-1825)
 - "Chapter I: Nature" (Vol B. 1826-1828)
 - "Chapter III: Beauty" (Vol. B. 1829-1833)
 - *Self-Reliance* (Vol B. 1868-1887)

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

- Read and mark the following the following by Henry David Thoreau:
 - "Henry David Thoreau" (Vol B. 1978-1979)
 - "Resistance to Civil Government" (Vol B. 1979-1995)
- Bring your MLA Supplement that came with your textbooks or a writer's handbook with the 2009 MLA update to class.

Thursday, November 20, 2014

- Read and mark the following selections from Edgar Allen Poe:
 - "Edgar Allen Poe" (Vol B. 2691-2693)
 - "The Fall of the House of Usher" (Vol B. 2706-2720)
 - "The Tell-Tale Heart" (Vol B. 2727-2731)
 - "The Purloined Letter" (Vol B. 2731-2745)
 - "The Raven" (Vol B. 2764-2767)
 - "Annabel Lee" (Vol B. 2767-2768)

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

- NO CLASS.
- Post Annotated Bibliography in the Research Bank Forum by 5PM today.
- I will be in my office from 8AM to 9:15 AM to discuss potential papers.

Thursday, November 27, 2014

- NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING.

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

- Draft of Paper #2 due. Bring a copy to class and post a copy in the "Paper #2: Draft" forum.
- The draft will be assessed according to the following scale: 20 points for a full draft with works cited, 15 for 4 pages without a works cited, 10 for 3 pages, 5 for 2 pages, and 2 for 1 page.

Thursday, December 4, 2014

- Last Class.
- Complete quote assignment #2
- Read and mark the following from Walt Whitman:
 - "Walt Whitman 1819-1892" biography (Vol B. 3218-3222)
 - "Ethiopia Saluting the Colors" (Vol. B 3311)
 - "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (Vol. B 3312-3319)
 - "Prayer of Columbus" (handout in Course Documents)
 - "To a Locomotive in Winter" (Vol. B 3321)

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

- Final Draft of Paper #2 by noon. See checklist for details.

Thursday, December 11, 2014

- 8AM to 10 AM. Final Exam in our normal classroom. Bring Exam Card for essay.