MORAVIAN COLLEGE
Fall 2006
English 101 (A): American Literature

INSTRUCTOR  Dr. Comfort
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library, from Reeves library, or upon request from instructor. Also review sections on
intentional and unintentional plagiarism.

COURSE GOALS (for instructor)
To introduce the diversity of voices that make up American literature
To discuss historic, literary, and cultural contexts of American literature
To encourage students to respect varied responses during class discussion
To provide opportunities for oral presentations in small groups and in the class
To respond thoughtfully to students’ views as written in three essays
To encourage students to welcome the delicious ambiguity of the “difficult beauty” in literature

GOALS (for students)
1.To identify and locate many American authors and their works in the American literary tradition
2. To recognize values and define themes in American literature
3. To think critically about and appreciate the complexity and diversity of serious literature
4.To enter into and continue a discussion about American literature, to compare the treatment of a single
   theme in several works of American literature, to analyze the literary elements of American
   literature to answer a specific question
5.To write essays that shape and extend this discussion, to incorporate research about literature into this
   writing, to incorporate American literature as support for a thesis in a personal essay
6.To understand literal meanings and consider implications in figurative meanings
7.To tolerate—perhaps to welcome--the lack of closure, the deliberate ambiguity found in complex
   literature

GRADES
1. Papers (3) @ 15%, 15%, & 15% each  45%
2. Midterm & Final (short answer) @ 20% each  40 %
3. Participation (attendance, discussion, quizzes) 15%

All grades for participation, quizzes, tests, and papers will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

READING AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE
To understand historical context and literary movements, read the assigned works after studying the
appropriate headnotes for the periods and for the authors themselves. We will not discuss all of
these headnotes, but you will be responsible for them on tests. Therefore, you should ask about
any parts which you find difficult to understand.

Reading schedule is tentative. Because American literature is a rich and varied source of readings,
changes will be made to reflect students interests and abilities.
If for any reason you need to have special considerations, please get the appropriate documentation and see me about it as soon as possible.

Please follow the Moravian College policy on original work. Do not plagiarize. Quizzes may not be made up. Quizzes may cover assigned readings to date and anything discussed in class. Quizzes will not be given on the day an essay is due.

Although no films are scheduled, films based on a writer’s work may be substituted for the assigned reading. In that case, you will be responsible for the film. Sometimes, the filmed story will be used in addition to the reading(s). Films about the author may also supplement the readings.

Moravian, MWF 7:50-8:20

1. August 28  Introduction: Puritanism 67-69; Anne Bradstreet 69-79, Edward Taylor 105-111
3. September 1 Benjamin Franklin 188-190, Polly Baker 229-230, Poor Richard’s Almanac 222-229
4. September 4 Labor Day, no class meeting
5. September 6 Phillis Wheatley 280-285; Philip Freneau 286-292
8. September 13 Henry David Thoreau “Civil Disobedience” 545-560
10. September 18 Nathaniel Hawthorne 626-627, Rappaccini’s Daughter 668-686
11. September 20 Herman Melville 697-699, Bartleby the Scrivener 699-723
12. September 22 Humanitarian Sensibility 779-285. Frederick Douglass 874-875, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass 875-888
14. September 27 Emily Dickinson 986-1021
15. September 29 Realists and Regionalists, Mark Twain 1021, Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, How to Tell a Story 1048-1052
16. October 2 Henry James 1076-1079, The Real Thing 1134-1164
17. October 4 Midterm Exam, (covers all readings--including historical and biographical headnotes--from Puritans and Bradstreet through Dickinson)
18. October 6 Break, no class mtg.
19. October 9 Break, no class mtg.
20. October 11 Turn of the Century 1193-1199, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Revolt of Mother 1304-1314
22. October 16 Edith Wharton 1352-1354, Roman Fever 1355-1362
23. October 18 Literary Renaissance 1413-1419, Robert Frost 1448-1450, Mending Wall 1452, Home Burial 1453, Road Not Taken 1458, Fire and Ice 1469, Design 1472 Directive 1473

22. October 23 Wallace Stevens 1563-1564, Sunday Morning and Anecdote of the Jar 1567-1570, William Carlos Williams 1577-1578, The Red Wheelbarrow & This is Just to say 1585-1586


24. October 27 Claude McKay 1652-1653, America 1654; Edna St. Vincent Millay 1654-1659 Essay #2 due

25. October 30 Langston Hughes 1679-1685, F Scott Fitzgerald 1686-1688, Babylon Revisited 1688-1700

26. November 1 William Faulkner 1717-1720, Barn Burning 1732-1743

27. November 3 Ernest Hemingway 1744-1745, Big Two-Hearted River 1746-1750


29. November 8 Robert Lowell 1871-1873, For the Union Dead 1876, Epilogue 1878

30. November 10 Ralph Ellison 1871-1873, For the Union Dead 1876, Epilogue 1878


November 22 Thanksgiving, no mtg.

November 24 Thanksgiving, no mtg.

35. November 27 A Century Ends and a New Millennium Begins 2031-2037; James Wright 2048-2049, A Note Left in Jimmy Leonard’s Shack 2049-2050, Autumn Begins in Martin’s Ferry, Ohio 2050

36. November 29 Rita Dove 2093-2094, Dusting 2095, Roast Possum 2097; Cathy song 2097-2098

Picture Bride 2098 Essay #3 due

37. December 1 Tim O’Brien 2144-2145; Night March 2145-2151

38. December 4 Amy Tan 2156-2157; Half and Half 2158-2166

39. December 6 Louise Erdrich 2167-2168, The Red Convertible 2168-2173

40. December 8 Complete discussions of assigned readings, read and discuss student essays, and/or review for final

41. December 11 Complete discussions of assigned readings, read and discuss students essays, and/or review for final