Administrative Unit: Humanities Department
Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 241
Course Title: American Literature I
Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0
Catalog Description: Survey of major American writers from Colonial to Realist figures.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112 or instructor’s permission.
Text(s): Many good texts are available, such as the following:


(Shorter editions in one volume are economical, especially for students who have taken or will take ENGL 242).
Supplementary texts might include a novel or two or:


Course Objectives:
- To understand and appreciate significant writers and ideological undergirdings of a variety of American literature from its Native American and pre-Colonial beginnings through most of the nineteenth century.
- To evaluate the major genres of American literature through an intensive course of readings, discussions and written exercises.

Measurable Learning
- Demonstrate increased knowledge and comprehension of the ideas, art forms, themes, and values found in the American literary heritage.
- Process, synthesize and produce critical analysis of poetry, prose and fiction suitable to a sophomore survey.
- Demonstrate progressively advanced ability to evaluate cultural and literary contexts of the works surveyed.
Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Departmental policy requires students write a minimum of 4500 words of graded writing for the course.
- Introduction to course: essential literary terms and movements named and briefly defined.
- Colonial literature: the earliest American authors from 1580 to 1670.
- Puritanism: major and minor authors; characters, themes, values, and lasting significance.
- Reason and Revolution: major and minor authors; the revolutionary spirit and enlightenment of eighteenth-century authors.
- Nature and Society: Native American Heritage and authors; characters, themes, values, and lasting significance.
- Transcendentalism and Romanticism: major and minor authors through the mid-nineteenth century, chronological order.
- Realists and Regionalists: major and minor authors of the turn of the century; characters, themes values, and lasting significance.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Dr. Danny Campbell

Date: September 21, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course's subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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