**Southern Arkansas University**

**Course Syllabus**

**Fall 2016**

**Course Number and Title:** English 3263: American Literature I **Format:** F-to-F (0-24% online)

**College or Department:** Dept of English and Foreign Languages **Weeks in length:** 16

**Instructor:** Dr. James Ulmer **Class Meetings per term:** 44

**Contact Number:** 870-235-5085 **Hours per class meeting:** 1

**Email:** jkulmer@saumag.edu **Credit hours awarded:** 3

**Office Hours & Location:** Wilson 328, MWF 12-2, TR 1-3 **Course Time & Location:** Wilson 316**,**

or by appointmentMWF 9-9:50

**Credit Hour Description**

For every course credit hour of a 15-17 week semester, the typical student should expect to spend approximately 45 clock hours per term of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time engaged in class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning.

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**University Mission Statement**

The mission of Southern Arkansas University is to educate students for productive and fulfilling lives in a global environment by providing opportunities for intellectual growth, individual enrichment, skill development, and meaningful career preparation. The University believes in the worth of the individual and accepts its responsibility for developing in its students those values and competencies essential for effective citizenship in an ever-changing, free, and democratic society. Further, the University encourages and supports excellence in teaching, scholarly, and creative endeavors, and service.

**College Mission Statement**

The mission of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts is to foster students’ ability to think critically, become tolerant of diversity, adhere to ethical values, communicate effectively, cooperate successfully, and become responsible citizens in a changing global society. In addition, the College seeks to instill in each student an appreciation of literature, languages, history, politics, geography, music, theatre, and art, and to provide the campus and region with opportunities for participation in these disciplines.

**Department Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of English and Foreign Languages is to provide the portion of a liberal arts education that employs language, literature, and written communication to develop the students’ ability to think critically, understand and appreciate diversity, adhere to ethical values, and communicate effectively in a global environment.

**Learning Goals and Course Content**

**University Learning Goal:** Effective Communication, Critical Thinking, Content Knowledge

**Department or Program Learning Goal:** Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate in writing. The class also promotes clear critical reading and understanding of world literature.

**Course Description:** World masterpieces from the Renaissance tothe modern period.

**Course Learning Goals** (Optional):

1. Students continue to hone their skills as writers.

2. Students write essays and exams that indicate an awareness o trends in American Literature.

3. Students write essays and exams that indicate an awareness of different critical approaches to literature.

4. Students demonstrate an awareness of historical and philosophical contexts in their written and oral discussion of literary works.

**Couse Learning Objectives** (Optional):

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Organize and develop their writing.

2. Write more clearly and effectively about literature.

3. Critically read and analyze works of literature.

4. Identify major forms, figures, and intellectual and artistic trends in world literature.

**Needed Resources:**

**To successfully complete this course, you will need the following required text:**

Baym, Nina. *The Norton Antology of American Literature,* Volumes A and B. Eighth edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2012.

Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick*. Signet Classic. New York: Viking Penguin, 1998.

**Grading Policies and Procedures**

**General Rules:**

Attendance Policy: Any student with more than three unexcused absences can expect to receive an automatic WF for the course. Any make-up work will be at the discretion of the instructor and will not ordinarily be allowed for unexcused absences. Work may be made up after an excused absence if it is done promptly, excluding quizzes. Excuses should be presented in writing to the instructor upon the student's return to class. When extenuating circumstances for absence exist, the student should discuss the matter with the instructor at the earliest possible moment.

**Grading Policies:**

There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, an oral presentation, and a short out-of-class paper. The midterm and final will be essay exams. Oral presentations will be on Melville’s *Moby-Dick*.

The out-of-class paper will be a short (5 page) essay applying a particular critical orientation to a short text (a poem or a short story) or part of a longer work (a chapter or motif from a novel). Choice of critical orientations can include The New Criticism, Psychoanalytical Analysis (either Freudian or Jungian), Reader-Response Criticism, Feminist Criticism, The New Historicism, and Deconstruction.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam: 30%

Oral presentation: 10%

Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

**Grading Scale:**

When essays are given letter grades, these will be converted to numerals for averaging. The conversion scale is as follows:

A= 90-100 (A- =90/A=95)

B= 80-89 (B- =80/B=85/B+=87)

C= 70-79 (C- =70/C=75/C+=77)

D= 60-69 (D- =60/D=65/D+=67)

F= 50

**Additional University Policies**

**Disability Support Services:** It is the policy of SAU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law, and the University's commitment to equal education opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities Support Services, Nelson Hall, Room 203, 870-235-4154.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic integrity at SAU is an organizational and individual responsibility to honesty in all learning experiences. Any act of dishonesty in academic work constitutes academic misconduct and is subject to disciplinary action. Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

A. Plagiarism--the act of taking and/or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one’s own.

B. Cheating--an act of dishonesty with the intention of obtaining and/or using information in a fraudulent manner.

C. Fabrication--faking or forging a document, signature or findings of a research project.

**Supplemental Information**

**Class Calendar**

The following schedule is subject to change.

**Week 1**

W, 8/24: Introduction to the class. The syllabus.

F, 8/26: Background lecture: The Puritans.

**Week 2**

M, 8/29: William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation.*

W, 8/31: John Winthrop, *The Journal of John Winthrop.*

F, 9/2: Anne Bradstreet, selected poems.

**Week 3**

W, 9/7: Bradstreet, continued.

F, 9/9: Edward Taylor, selected poems.

**Week 4**

M, 9/12: Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.*

W, 9/14: Jonathan Edwards, *Personal Narrative.*

F, 9/16: Background lecture: The Enlightenment.

**Week 5**

M, 9/19: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography.*

W, 9/21: *The Autobiography,* continued.

F, 9/23: Background lecture: American Romanticism. William Cullen Bryant, “Thanatopsis” and “To a

Waterfowl.”

**Week 6**

M, 9/26: Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle.”

W, 9/28: Irving, “The legend of Sleepy Hollow.”

F, 9/30: James Fennimore Cooper, from *The Pioneers* (Chapter III: The Slaughter of the Pigeons).

**Week 7**

M, 10/3:Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans.*

W, 10/5: *The Last of the Mohicans,* continued.

F, 10/7:*The Last of the Mohicans,* continued.

**Week 8**

M, 10/10: Midterm Exam.

W, 10/12: Midterm Exam, continued.

F, 10/14: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Philosophy of Composition.”

**Week 9**

M, 10/17: Poe’s poetry: “The Raven,” “Israfel,” “Annabel Lee,” “Ulalume: A Ballad.”

W, 10/19:Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher.”

F, 10/21: Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado,” “William Wilson.”

**Week 10**

M, 10/24: Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance.”

W, 10/26: “Self-Reliance,’ continued.

F, 10/28: Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown.”

**Week 11**

M, 10/31: Hawthorne, “Rappacini’s Daughter,” “The Minister’s Black Veil.”

W, 11/2: Melville, *Moby-Dick*.

F, 11/4: *Moby-Dick* presentations

**Week 12**

M, 11/7: *Moby-Dick* presentations.

W, 11/9: *Moby-Dick* presentations.

F, 11/11: *Moby-Dick* presentations.

**Week 13**

M, 11/14: *Moby-Dick* presentations. Essays due.

W, 11/16: Henry David Thoreau, *Walden.*

F, 11/18: *Walden,* continued.

**Week 14**

M, 11/21: Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself.*

**Week 15**

M, 11/28: *Song of Myself,* continued.

W, 11/30: Whitman, “When Lilacs last in the Dooryard Bloom’d.”

F, 12/2: Emily Dickinson, selected poems.

**Week 16**

Final Exam