

Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English
English 2500 (ENG 224) American Literature
4 credits
Fall 2018

Tu Th 10 – 11:47 a.m. 173 South Foundation Hall

Dr. Kathleen Pfeiffer
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Office Hours: Tu Th 1 - 2
And by appointment
(248) 370-2267

Course Requirements:

reading quizzes 15% (no makeup quizzes given; I will drop the lowest quiz grade)
participation 10%
3 tests each 25%

Course Description: Introduction to literary analysis and appreciation through readings in the American literary tradition. Emphasis on such authors as Hawthorne, Melville, Dickinson, and James. Course Prerequisites/Corequisites – none

This class satisfies the **General Education requirements in Literature**

General Education Learning Outcomes:

The student will demonstrate:

- knowledge of how literature is an expression of culture – We will do this by placing literary texts in the context of the Age of Reason, Romanticism, or Realism and by considering how they reflect developments and conflicts in U.S. history.
- knowledge of literary form – We will do this by considering differences of genre (prose and poetry; fiction and non-fiction) and by developing attentiveness to other aspects of literary artistry such as style and tone.

Cross-Cutting Capacity: critical thinking.

Special Considerations: A student with documented learning or physical disability must contact the Office of Disability and Support Services, 121 North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>.

Electronic Devices: No text messaging or computers in this class.

Attendance: The University excused absence policy applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events or artistic performances approved

by the Provost or designee. For the excused absence policy, see

<http://www.oakland.edu/?1d=6850&sid=175>.

You may miss three (3) class meetings without incurring any grade penalty; after three, each absence will lower your overall grade by 5 points (for example, from 80 to 75).

Academic Misconduct: The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication.

Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

Participation: (10% of your final grade) This class will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format, and the success of the discussion portion depends on student participation. This portion of your grade is based on attentiveness to and participation in class discussions. I believe that students learn better when they actively engage the material, by asking questions ("How old was Plath when she wrote this poem?"), offering observations ("There's a lot of references to the moon here"), drawing connections ("Melville's character has a lot of the same problems as Gilman's character did in our reading last week"), and synthesizing material ("My history 115 class had a completely different interpretation of slavery's political impact").

Required Texts:

- Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* 0195042387
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Selected Tales and Sketches* 014039057X
- Charles Chesnutt, *Conjure Tales and Stories of the Color Line* 9780141185026
- Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time* 9780684822761
- Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*, 0767902890

A Note on Texts: In keeping with the class policy on text messaging and electronic distractions (which is: not allowed), I strongly discourage e-readers and e-books for the purpose of this class. Class works best when everyone has a printed text in front of them, and I encourage everyone to bring a printed text of each day's reading with you to class each day. Many of our shorter readings will be posted on Moodle: please print these out and bring them with you to class.

Schedule

Th Sept 6	Introduction and Overview
Tu Sept 11	Declaration of Independence (1776) (handout) Phillis Wheatley (handout)
Th Sept 13	<i>Unchained Memories</i> (film)

Tu Sept 18 *Charlotte Temple* Volume 1
Last day to add and drop classes at 100% tuition refund
 Th Sept 20 *Charlotte Temple* to the end

Tu Sept 25 Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (1832), "The Minister's Black Veil" (1836)
 Th Sept 27 Hawthorne, "The Birthmark" (1843), "Young Goodman Brown" (1835)

Tu Oct 2 ***Test 1***
 Th Oct 4 Chopin, "The Story of an Hour," (Moodle)
 Dickinson, "I'm Ceded," (Moodle)

Tu Oct 9 Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," (Moodle)
 Th Oct 11 **no class: watch Emily Dickinson film online**
<https://www.learner.org/catalog/extras/vvspot/Dickinson.html>

Tu Oct 16 Chesnutt, "The Wife of His Youth," "The Passing of Grandison" introduction to dialect
 Th Oct 18 Chesnutt, "The Goophered Grapevine," "Po' Sandy"

Tu Oct 23 *In Our Time*, to the end of Chapter III
 Th Oct 25 *In Our Time*, "The End of Something," "The Three Day Blow,"

Tu Oct 30 *In Our Time*, "Soldier's Home"
 Th Nov 1 *In Our Time*, "The Big Two Hearted River"

Tu Nov 6 ***Test 2***
***** Wed Nov. 7 Last day official withdrawal *****
 Th Nov 8 Ellison, "Party Down at the Square" (Moodle)

Tu Nov 13 *The Things They Carried* through "Friends"
 Th Nov 15 *The Things They Carried* through "Stockings"

Tu Nov 20 *The Things They Carried* through "Notes"
Th Nov 22 --- Thanksgiving ---

Tu Nov 27 *The Things They Carried* to the end
 Th Nov 29 **no class: watch Tim O'Brien interview online**
<https://bigthink.com/videos/big-think-interview-with-tim-obrien>

Tu Dec 4 "Fourth State of Matter," Jo Ann Beard (Moodle)
 Th Dec 6 "Cat Person," Kristen Roupenian (Moodle)

Tuesday, Dec. 11. 9 - 11 a.m. *Test 3*