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Fall 9-1-2000

### ENLT 224.03: American Literature to 1865

Jill Bergman

*The University Of Montana*

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BERGMAN  
ENLT 224.02  
ENLT 224.03

**English 224: American Literature to 1865**

Section 2, 11:10-12:30, CP 102

Section 3, 2:10-3:30, LA 303

Professor Bergman

Office: LA 128

Office phone: 243-5352

Email: bergman@selway.umt.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment

**Course Description:**

In this course, we will examine the way literature has shaped and been shaped by some of the important historical events and ideological forces in our nation's history, such as Calvinism, slavery and abolition, the development of a national identity, westward expansion, the industrial revolution, and the "woman question." Since literary history is an interaction between the dominant ideas of a given time period and the individuals who grapple with those ideas, we will seek to discover the extent to which the work we read challenges or endorses existing ideals. Guiding our inquiries this semester will be the investigation of the development of an American cultural identity and the role of literature in that development. How have writers conceived of the notion of "American," and what traits or ideals do they associate with that classification? To whom has that title been available? Although we will explore texts within their historical, political, and literary contexts, we'll also spend time developing close reading skills.

*Course Objectives:* To familiarize students with some of the range and diversity of early American literature; to engage in an on-going discussion about the roots of American cultural identity; to deepen students' interpretative and critical skills, both by discussing literary critical practice and by engaging in it; to improve students' verbal skills of argumentation and articulation of ideas through large and small group discussion; to improve students' skills of written argumentation through writing and revising essays; to introduce students to the resources for literary scholarship at the UM library.

**Texts:**

Baym, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Vol 1

Foster, *The Coquette*

Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*

Murfin and Ray, *Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*

**Grading:**

2 essays (3 page minimum)	20% each
1 revision essay (7 pages)	30%
final exam	20%
participation	10%

Terms and movements might include such things as Calvinism, Romanticism, Gothic, etc.

Notice that for both parts of this exam you will need to refer to ideas discussed and information given in class. I strongly recommend that you take notes throughout the semester.

Students with disabilities who will need accommodation should see me early in the semester.

### Course Schedule:

- 9/5 Course Introduction
- 9/7 Origin Myths  
The Iroquois Creation Story (AL 53-57)  
Pima Stories of the Beginning of the World (AL 57-67)  
Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (AL 165-191)
- 9/12 Puritan Heritage: Public Voices.  
Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (AL 214-225)  
Wigglesworth, "The Day of Doom" (AL 284-297)  
Bradstreet, "Contemplations" (AL 262-268), "In Honor of that High and Mighty Princess..." (AL 256-259)
- 9/14 Puritan Heritage: Private Voices  
Bradstreet, "The Prologue," "To the Memory of... Thomas Dudley," "To Her Father with Some Verses," "The Author to her Book," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment," "Another..." "In Reference to Her Children," "In Memory of ... Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet," "In Memory of ... Grandchild Anne Bradstreet," "For Deliverance from a Fever," "As Weary Pilgrim," "...Upon the Burning of our House..." and "To My Dear Children" (AL 247-283)
- 9/19 Bradstreet continued  
Hacker, 106-108, 138-141  
*Essay #1 assigned*
- 9/21 Rowlandson, "A Narrative..." (AL 297-330)
- 9/26 Enlightenment and American Independence  
Franklin, "The Way to Wealth" (AL 493-498), Information for Those Who Would Remove" (AL 510-516), "Autobiography" Part I (AL 524-569)  
Occom, "Brief Narrative," (AL 612-619)

- 11/16 Douglass, from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (AL 2000-2057)
- 11/21 Jacobs, from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (AL 1719-1739)  
*Final essay assigned*
- 11/23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- 11/28 Capitalism and Industry  
Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener" (AL 2330-2355)
- 11/30 Davis, *Life in the Iron-Mills* (AL 2534-2560)
- 12/5 Poetic Conclusions  
Whitman, "Song of Myself" (AL 2096-2138)  
Hacker 109-118, 122-137
- 12/7 Whitman, "Live Oak, with Moss" (AL 2146-2150); "When I Heard the Learn'd  
Astronomer" (AL 2168); "The Wound-Dresser" (AL 2172-2173);
- 12/12 Dickinson, all poems in Norton (AL 2491-2525)  
*Final Essay Due*
- 12/14 Finish Dickinson  
Wrap up

FINAL EXAM: 11:10 section, Monday, 12/18 10:10-12:10  
2:10 section, Wednesday, 12/20 3:20-5:20