



**Division of English and Communications  
English Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/english/>

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**ENGL 2327: American Literature I | Lecture | 21201**

Fall 2020 | 16 Weeks (8.24.2020-12.13.2020)

Online | Canvas | Daily

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor:	Brandon Hernsberger Ph.D.	Office Phone:	713-718-7165
Office:	Central Campus Room 215	Office Hours:	By appt.
HCC Email:	b.hernsberger@hccs.edu		

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns or just to discuss course topics.

**Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact**

Please contact me with questions or concerns via email at b.hernsberger@hccs.edu or at Canvas Inbox. I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

**What's Exciting About This Course**

The Department of English helps students find and develop their authentic voices, establish political power, and create social capital. We teach critical thinking, close reading, and analysis. We coach students on the rhetoric of messaging with consideration of purpose and audience. We support them as they craft their own narratives. We turn thoughts into words, ideas into interpretations, ambiguity into translation, and silence into voice.

**Personal Welcome**

In this course we will explore the world of American Literature pre-Civil War; and especially what it means to *be American Literature*. In other words, how and when and who were the people who actually invented this thing we all sometimes think we know. It's often a hard question to answer.

**Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites**

Completion of ENGL 1301. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

## Learning Management System

This section of ENGL 2327 will use [Eagle Online Canvas](#) and/or the Learning Web for all assignments, exams, and activities. Each week, you will complete several reading and writing assignments, all of which will be found in the Canvas course shell. When accessing the course on Canvas, it is recommended that you use [FIREFOX](#) or [CHROME](#).

This semester, there are three modalities for English courses: Online Anytime, Online on a Schedule, and Flex Campus. Online Anytime classes are traditional online courses; coursework is online, and there are no meetings at specific times. Online on a Schedule classes are online courses with traditional meeting components; coursework is online, and there are specific times to log in for scheduled class meetings. Flex Campus are in-person classes; coursework is online, and students have the choice to come to campus or to participate online during scheduled class meetings.

This section of ENGL 2327 is Online anytime.

### HCC Online Information and Policies

<http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

### Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, Other Resources

Look on your course website for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course.

## Instructional Materials

### Course Reader Information

*The American Transcendentalists: Essential Writings*, ed. by Lawrence Buell  
*The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, by Jerome Lawrence

### Other Instructional Resources

#### Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

#### Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

### Supplemental Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

## Course Overview for ENGL 2327

ENGL 2327 is a survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement through the Civil War. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character. Core curriculum course.

### Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs) for all ENGL Core Courses

ENGL 2327 satisfies three (3) hours of the communication requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS English Discipline Committee has specified that the course address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication:** Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) for all ENGL courses

Can be found at:

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/english/>

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs) for ENGL 2327

Upon successful completion of ENGL 2327, the student will be able to:

- Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
- Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
- Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
- Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

## Student Success in ENGL

As with any three-hour course, expect to spend **at least six hours per week** outside of class reading and studying the material. I will provide assignments to help you use those six hours per week wisely. Additional time will be required for written assignments. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of reading the textbook, attending class, completing assignments in Eagle Online, and participating in class discussions. There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as your guide.

### Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be calculated
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Provide a description of any assignments
- Inform students of policies
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the texts
- Complete the required assignments
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all documents, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies, including plagiarism, in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#)

## Assignments

### Written Assignments and Essays

Students will write a minimum of 4,000 words over the course of the semester. You will be doing a variety of writing assignments. Some long, some short. More info available on the syllabus.

### Grading Formula

#### Grading Scale

- A 90-100%** =exceptional work; superior in both style and content
- B 80-89%** =above average work; superior in content
- C 70-79%** =average work, good enough but not extraordinary
- D 60-69%** =below average work; mean mechanics, style, content
- F 50-59%** =failing work; deficient in mechanics, style and content

**HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:**  
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

## Course Calendar

**English 2327 Course Calendar Fall 2020 (tentative) Student Requirement: 5,000 words**

\*All readings will be from *The American Transcendentalists*

### **WEEK ONE**

Read "Introduction"  
Diagnostic Essay

### **WEEK TWO**

Thomas Carlyle, "The Age of Machinery"

### **WEEK TWO, THREE**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature"

Short Essay Due

### **WEEK FOUR**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar"

Long Essay Due

### **WEEK FIVE**

Henry David Thoreau, "A Transcendentalist's Profession of Faith"  
"Ralph Waldo Emerson Declines George Ripley's Invitation to Join Brook Farm"

Short Essay Due

### **WEEK SIX**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance"

### **WEEK SEVEN**

Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, from "Plan of the West Roxbury Community"  
George Ripley, et al., "Brook Farm's (First Published) Constitution"

### **WEEK EIGHT, NINE**

Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government"

Long Essay Due

### **WEEK TEN**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, from "The Fugitive Slave Law"

**WEEK TEN, ELEVEN, TWELVE**

Henry David Thoreau, "A Plea for Captain John Brown"

**WEEK THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN**

Prepare for Final

**WEEK FIFTEEN**

**FINAL**

### **Syllabus Modifications**

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

### **Instructor's Policies**

#### **Academic Integrity**

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

#### **Attendance Procedure**

Be sure to check the Canvas site daily as there will be new reading and writing assignments posted regularly.

#### **Student Conduct**

You will be expected to keep up with the readings and writings, and turn in everything on time. No late papers will be accepted.

### **HCC Policies**

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- Ability Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)

- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

### **EGLS<sub>3</sub>**

The EGLS<sub>3</sub> ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS<sub>3</sub> surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS<sub>3</sub> surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

### **HCC Email Policy**

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

### **Office of Institutional Equity**

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>

### **Ability Services**

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/>

### **Title IX**

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

### **Office of the Dean of Students**

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

### **Department Chair Contact Information**

Dr. Alan Ainsworth, [alan.ainsworth@hccs.edu](mailto:alan.ainsworth@hccs.edu), 713.718.7591