

Houston Community College—Fall 2018 (DE)

ENGL 2327—0002 (12018 / 13495)

Early American Literature

Instructor: Dr. Brandon HERNBERGER

Email: b.hernsberger@hccs.edu

Class Times: All online (Canvas)

Room: Canvas

Office hours: TTH 9:00-11:00 (Central Campus, San Jac Building, Rm. 215)

Required Texts:

The American Transcendentalists: Essential Writings, ed. by Lawrence Buell

Catalog Description: English 2327 is a critical study of major American writers from 1630 to 1865. This course requires substantial reading and research. Students who enroll in this course are strongly advised to have passed English 1301 with a grade of “C” or better. Prerequisite is English 1301. Three credit hours (Three lecture).

Course Description: This course will investigate the major writers in American Literature before the Civil War, particularly those writers within the movement commonly known as Transcendentalism. Throughout the semester we will make it our mission to discover the meaning of America through the literature that helped give the country its global meaning. America as a literary nation was largely developed during the years prior to the beginning of the Civil War, and that was the specific goal of writers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, and others.

Core Objectives

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Students enrolled in this core curriculum course will complete a research project or case study designed to cultivate the following core objectives:

- o **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- o **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

- o **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- o **Teamwork** (Comp I, Comp II, and TW)—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- o **Social Responsibility** (Lit Only)—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student proficiency in Communication Skills will be assessed as a formal written out-of-class essay, which is at least 3 pages long and which includes an oral presentation component as well as a visual component. Student proficiency in Critical Thinking will be assessed by a formal out-of-class essay assignment. Personal, Social Responsibility, and Teamwork will be assessed as part of long unit or major essay assignment, which will include assigned reading responses, pre-writing activities, multiple drafts, and group activities (such as peer review or group presentations). Student project grades will account for at least 5% of the final course grade.

English Program Student Learning Outcomes

(Composition, Literature, Creative Writing, and Technical Writing)

1. Write in appropriate genres using varied rhetorical strategies.
2. Write in appropriate genres to explain and evaluate rhetorical and/or literary strategies employed in argument, persuasion, and various genres.
3. Analyze various genres of writing for form, method, meaning, and interpretation.
4. Employ research in academic writing styles and use appropriate documentation style.
5. Communicate ideas effectively through discussion.

English Literature Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain and illustrate stylistic characteristics of representative works.
2. Connect representative works to human and individual values in historical and social contexts.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of film/media, historically and culturally.
4. Analyze media texts, filmic texts.
5. Critique and interpret representative literary works.

Paper Format: All papers are to be double-spaced. The mandatory heading, which follows MLA, must be in the upper left-hand corner of first sheet, the title centered, the

paragraphs indented as follows:

Student's name

English 2327, Assignment #

Instructor's Name

Date

Title of Essay

Indent the first paragraph and every paragraph thereafter. Staple the paper only. There is no need for covers of any kind.

Grading: Your grade will be determined by your performance on the required papers as well as on weekly work comprised of quizzes, and class discussion (and see above, Course Requirements). Discussions are based not exclusively on personal opinions but on facts and opinions derived from the essays we read from our book and from handouts. You are required to write a minimum of seven essays, four of them in class. You must be able to write satisfactory in-class essays in order to pass this class. Essays will be graded according to the following departmental standards.

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

Student Support Services:

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Student Success for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Ability Services:

Houston Community College is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers and opening access for qualified students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Ability Services is the designated office responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services in order to assist students with disabilities in reaching their full academic potential. In order to receive reasonable accommodations or evacuation assistance in an emergency, the student must be registered with Ability Services.

If you have a documented disability (e.g. learning, hearing, vision, physical, mental health, or a chronic health condition), that may require accommodations, please contact the appropriate Ability Services Office below. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your Instructor's receipt of an accommodation letter and accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations can be requested at any time during the semester, however if an accommodation letter is provided to the Instructor after the first day of class, sufficient time (1 week) must be allotted for the Instructor to implement the accommodations.

Ability Service Contact Information:

Central College

713.718.6164

Coleman College

713-718-7376

Northeast College

713-718-8322

Northwest College

713-718-5422

713-718-5408

Southeast College

713-718-7144

Southwest College

713-718-5910

Adaptive Equipment/Assistive Technology

713-718-6629

713-718-5604

Interpreting and CART services

713-718-6333

Accommodations due to a Qualified Disability: HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations.

Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Libraries: HCC has a Learning Resource Center at each campus for student use. The library provides electronic resources including an online catalog system as well as numerous databases that contain full-text articles all available at <https://library.hccs.edu>. Additionally, many of the required texts are on reserve at the library. Find out library locations and hours here:

http://library.hccs.edu/about_us/locations_hours

Online Tutoring:

The goal of online tutoring is to help students become academically independent through guided assistance by HCC faculty or faculty-eligible tutors in almost all departments. Our tutoring is asynchronous, which means that it is NOT real-time.

Students can get real-time help on campus and through several textbook sources. We believe that when tutors can take time to absorb and analyze the work, we give a different type of help. Because the tutoring is asynchronous, it is important for students to plan ahead. It generally takes about two days to get a complete review back, and it may be longer than that when hundreds of

papers come in every day for several days in a row. It is crucial for students to look at the yellow banner on the log-in page to see how long the turn-around time is.

Students can submit work 24/7/365; we tutor even when the college is closed for holidays or natural disasters. All HCC students can take advantage of online tutoring by logging on to <https://hccs.upswing.io/>. The HCC email address and the associated password get students into the online tutoring site, so when the email password changes, so does the Upswing password.

Open Computer Labs: Students have free access to the internet and word processing in open computer labs available at HCC campuses. Check on the door of the open computer lab for hours of operation.

Tutoring Centers:

The HCC Tutoring Centers provide academic support to our diverse student population by creating an open atmosphere of learning for all students enrolled at HCC. Using a variety of tutoring techniques, we assist students across academic disciplines, addressing their individual needs in a constructive, safe, and welcoming environment. Our emphasis is on maximizing academic potential while promoting student success and retention. We are committed to helping students achieve their educational, personal, and career goals by empowering them to become confident, independent, lifelong learners.

Tutoring for individual subjects is offered at specific times throughout the week on various campuses. There is no need to make an appointment. If you need a tutor, please refer to our website: <http://ctle3.hccs.edu/alltutoring/> for times and locations. For more information about tutoring at HCC, please go to hccs.edu/district/students/tutoring.

Important HCCS and Course Policies:

Please see <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> for any changes to HCC policies that might happen during the semester.

Academic Honesty: A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcing roles. You are expected to be familiar with the HCC's policy on Academic Honesty found in the catalogue. What that means is that if you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you.

Just so there is no misunderstanding, plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without giving credit), collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit), and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. To be accepted, all papers require proof of their development. Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat may face disciplinary action including the grade of 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or dismissal from the college. (See Student Handbook)

Attendance: Attendance, preparedness, and participation are essential for your success in this course. HCC does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. If you are not in class, you are absent. HCC Policy states that you can miss up to but not exceeding 12.5% of class hours, which is equivalent to 6 hours. When you miss class, you are still responsible for what happens in class. Keep in mind that whatever the reason for your absence, you will still miss important course work. If you know you must be absent or if you have an emergency, let me know **before class** and make plans to meet with me in office hours. If you have more than four (4) absences before the official date of record, September 10, you may be automatically withdrawn from the course.

Campus Carry: At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/campus-carry-and-open-carry-faqs/>

Campus Safety: If you are on campus and need emergency assistance, call 713-718-8888 or, from any campus phone, 8-8888. Use this emergency number instead of 911, which gets routed back to the HCC Police Department dispatch thus lengthening response time to your emergency situation.

EGLS3 (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System): At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Go to <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/> for directions.

Final Grade of FX: Students who stop attending class or stop actively participating in class and do not withdraw themselves prior to the withdrawal deadline may either be dropped by their professor for excessive absences or be assigned the final grade of FX at the end of the semester. Students who stop attending classes or who stop actively participating in classes will receive a grade of FX, as compared to an earned grade of F, which is due to poor performance. Logging into a DE course without active participation is considered non-attending.

Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class. Students who receive financial aid but fail to attend class will be reported to the Department of Education and may have to pay back their aid. A grade of FX is treated exactly the same as a grade of F in terms of GPA, probation, suspension, and satisfactory academic progress.

HCC Online: (To be included in syllabi for HCC Online courses only): Access HCC Online Policies on their Web site: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

All students are responsible for reading and understanding the HCC Online Student Handbook, which contains policies, information about conduct, and other important information. For the

HCC Online Student Handbook click on the link below or go to the HCC Online page on the HCC website. The HCC Online Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the online student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as HCC Online contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the HCC Online Student Handbook by visiting this link: <http://www.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/HCC-Online-Student-Handbook.pdf>

International Students: Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course, it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Since January 1, 2003, International Students are restricted in the number of distance education courses that they may take during each semester. International students must have full-time enrollment status of 12 or more semester credit hours, and of these at least 9 semester credit hours must be face-to-face on-campus courses. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8521 or email int_student_svcs@hccs.edu, if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Repeating Courses: Students who repeat a course for three or more times will face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask your instructor or counselor/advisor about opportunities for tutoring and/or other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal or if you are not receiving passing grades.

Sexual Misconduct: Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. The director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504) and complaints may be directed to: David Cross, Director EEO/Compliance, Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, 3100 Main, Houston, TX 77266-7517, or institutional.equity@hccs.edu.

Title IX Discrimination: Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status-in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator.

All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:
David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

Withdrawal Policy: Before withdrawing from the course, it is important to communicate with your professor and counselors to discuss your options for succeeding in the course. If all other options have been exhausted, you may withdraw yourself, but the last date to withdraw this semester is **November 27**. Please remember that it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course. If you stop attending the class and don't withdraw by this date, you are subject to the FX grading policy.

Topic/purpose development	50%
Organization and support	30%
Style and mechanics	20%

English 2327 Course Calendar Fall 2018 (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