AMERICAN LITERATURE I (ENG 265)

Instructor:  
Prof. Carmine Prioli  
Tompkins 249  
E-mail prioli@ncsu.edu  
(919) 515-4107

Required texts:  
1. All of the readings for this course are in the public domain and are available on-line at:  
http://moodlepilot.ncsu.edu/course/view.php?id=1297#section-0 
You may also access the readings directly at Google Books (hyperlinks appear on the Moodle page).  
You need to download PDFs from Google Books and/or from the E-reserves for this course. 
If you would prefer hard copy versions of specific course readings, most will be found in just about any anthology that you may purchase on your own. Specifically, there is Anthology of American Literature (any edition), vol. 1, George McMichael, ed., (Pearson/Prentice Hall).

2. The Scarlet Letter: A Romance, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Any good edition or on-line text


GER information: This course satisfies the NCSU GER in literature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS: There will be a mid-term and final exam. The mid-term will be 1 hour in length. The final will be 2 hours. Both exams will consist of brief essay discussions of terms, quotations, or images discussed in class (5 out of 6 items for the mid-term; 10 out of 12 items for the final). DE students will take exams on-line at the Delta testing facility using the Moodle Course Management System.

In nearly every class session, we will be closely analyzing passages or images for stylistic elements and themes. The writing assignments and the exams will require this same kind of analysis. They will also demand precision and accuracy of information, so it is extremely important that you view (or attend) all classes and take careful notes.

ESSAYS: There will be two essays, a short one (3-4 pp; 1000-1500 words) due early in the course, and a longer one (5-7 pp; 1700-2100 words), due around the second-last week of class. Topics for these essays will be announced. For information on evaluation criteria, see “Goals and Standards of Composition” (https://reserves.lib.ncsu.edu/index.php). Essays will be submitted on-line as Word documents.

INCOMPLETE GRADES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS: The grade of “I” (Incomplete) will only be given to students who have successfully completed most of the course work but who experience some serious difficulty beyond their control in the last two or three weeks of the course. Essays turned in late will be accepted only at the instructor’s discretion and will be penalized for each day the assignment is overdue.

NCSU POLICY ON ABSENCES: For students taking this course on-campus, the NCSU policy on absences will apply:  
http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php 
A limited number of absences (3) will be allowed for documented medical and/or personal emergencies, court appearances, and university functions. Undocumented absences will adversely affect the final grade.
FINAL GRADE: If all tests and papers have been turned in and completed on time and there are no excessive absences, the final grade will be computed as follows:

- Mid-term exam: 20
- Essays: (1st @ 20%; 2nd @ 30%): 50
- Final Exam: 30

Total: 100%

The final grade will be computed on the basis of the following numerical scale and letter equivalencies:

- 97-100 = A+; 93-96 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C;
- 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; 0-59 = F.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

1. **Academic Integrity**: In all matters related to academic integrity, this course will adhere to the rules set out in the NCSU Code of Student Conduct. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with these rules (see [http://www.fis.ncsu.edu:80/ncsulegal/41.03-codeof.htm](http://www.fis.ncsu.edu:80/ncsulegal/41.03-codeof.htm)) and to uphold the principle and spirit of the Honor Pledge: “I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment.”

2. **PLAGIARISM**: All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and will result in an “F” for the course. Plagiarism includes the undocumented, unquoted use of ANY information obtained on the web, as well as material published in magazines, journals, newspapers and books. (see also [http://www.ncsu.edu/student_affairs/osc/alpage/acaintegrity.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/student_affairs/osc/alpage/acaintegrity.html))

3. For NCSU policies on non-discrimination, see: [http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/ncsulegal/areg-discrimination.html](http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/ncsulegal/areg-discrimination.html).

4. For NCSU policies on working with students with disabilities, see: [http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/hat/current/appendix/appen_k.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/hat/current/appendix/appen_k.html).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In ENG 265, students will:

A. Move from learning historical and literary facts to making reasoned judgments grounded in the academic content of the course.

B. Learn how specific, concrete images, icons, ideas, or concepts expressed in literary texts and visual images can help us understand and explore the more complex history, philosophy, and theology that frame the British-American experience and that contribute to the creation of the “American character.”

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In ENG 265, students will:

A. Make both reasoned and imaginative judgments about how such factors as technology, gender, religious principles, life, love, and death inform the creation of American literature (poetry, fiction, and non-fiction), and of distinctly American experiences and literary characters.

B. Develop original insights using critical, creative, and imaginative thinking into the ways in which American poetry, fiction, and non-fiction help us understand and engage in the human experience.

C. Express these judgments and original insights over time in the essays and exams.