English 68A, Section 1 **American Literature to 1865** Spring 2012

Professor Karen English Office: F0221

Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30am Phone: 924-4506

TR 10:30-11:30am & by appt Class Time: TR 9-10:15am

DMH 354

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My web page: www.sjsu.edu/people/karen.english/ Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page also accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

**Required Text**:

Baym, Nina P. et al. *Norton Anthology of American Literature.* Vols. A & B. 7th ed.

ISBNs 978039392739 and 978039392740

**Course Description**: This course surveys American literatures from the beginnings to 1865. Through lectures and discussions, we will explore nonfiction prose, poetry, drama, and fiction of the colonial, revolutionary, national, and romantic periods of American literature. Students will learn to read, analyze, and write essays on a wide variety of texts.

**Student Learning Objectives:** In the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will demonstrate the ability to: (1) read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric; (2) show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American and World Literature; (3) write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject; (4)      develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively; and (5) articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

**Course Requirements**: Students are expected to attend all classes. At her discretion, the instructor will give quizzes. A midterm and final examination will also be given as scheduled in the syllabus. **Note:** Electronic devices will not be used in the classroom except by instructor permission.

**Dropping and Adding**:Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/**.** Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

**Grades**: Tests will count 50%: the midterm 25% and the final 25%. Class work counts 50%; class work includes written and oral components. Class work cannot be made up; however, credit for **one** class assignment can be earned by attending a Center for Literary Arts event on campus, writing a typed review, and providing proof of attendance (program, ticket, etc). The review **must be** connect the reading to material studied or discussed in the course.

**Grading Statement**: The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B=above average; C= average; D=below average; F=failure. In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

### Academic integrity: Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial\_affairs/Academic\_Integrity\_Policy\_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at <http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html>

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in ADM 110. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

**SJSU Writing Center**:The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assistall students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers**.** The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>

**Class Schedule**: The following schedule of readings and written assignments is subject to change. While we may not discuss every assigned reading, students are responsible for the content of all assignments on quizzes and exams. Reading assignments satisfy SLOs 1, 2, 5.

1/26 Introduction; Native American Poetry handout (see web page)

Stories of the Beginning of the World 17-31 (Iroquois & Pima)

1/31 Trickster Tales 72-83 (Winnebago), 86-91(Koasati), 98-103 (Navajo)

Samson Occum (Mohegan), from “A Short Narrative” 440-443

2/2 William Bradford 104-138 from *Of Plymouth Plantation*; Illustration C4

2/7 Anne Bradstreet 187; "To My Dear Children" 214-17; "The Prologue" 188-189; "The Author to Her Book" 204-205; "Upon the Burning of Our House" 212-213

2/9 Mary Rowlandson *Narrative* 235-67

2/14 Benjamin Franklin 449-451; from *Autobiography* 473-500; Illustration C6

2/16 Benjamin Franklin 500-534

2/21 Philip Freneau 742-43;"The Wild Honey Suckle" 744-45; "To Sir Toby" 746-48; "On the Religion of Nature" 749-750

2/23 Olaudah Equiano from the *Interesting Narrative* 674-709; Illus. C7

2/28 Phillis Wheatley 751-2; "On Being Brought" 753; "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield" 756-7; "To S.M., A Young African Painter" 760-1; Letter to Samson Occom 763-4

3/1 Royall Tyler 764-784 *The Contrast*

3/6 Tyler (cont) 785-805

3/8 **Reading Day**

3/13 Hannah Webster Foster *The Coquette* 806-847

3/15 Webster, 848-904

3/20  **MIDTERM**  (SLOs: 2, 3, 5)

3/22 Washington Irving, 951-985, “Rip Van Winkle” and “Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

3/37 & 29 **SPRING BREAK**

4/3 Emerson "The American Scholar" 1138-51; "Each and All” 1244; "The Snow-Storm" 1245

4/5 Margaret Fuller 1637-40; from "The Great Lawsuit" 1655-59; Fanny Fern 1792-1803 “Selections”; Illustration C6

4/10 Henry David Thoreau 1853-57;”The Ponds” from *Walden* 1963-1977;

4/12 Thoreau, "Slavery in Massachusetts" 2046-2056; Frederick Douglass from *My Freedom and My Bondage* 2060-2064, 2129-2140

4/17 Harriet Jacobs, from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* 1808-1829

4/19 Edgar Poe 1528-32; "Philosophy of Composition" 1617-1625;” The Raven” 1536-39

4/24 Poe “The Black Cat” 1593-1599; "The Purloined Letter" 1599-1616

4/26 Nathaniel Hawthorne 1272-75; “The Custom-House” 1352-1377

5/1 Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, 1377-1431

5/3 *SL* continue reading 1431-1493

5/8 Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener” 2363-2389

5/10 Walt Whitman 2190-2195; from "Preface" to *Leaves of Grass* 2195-99; "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" 2263-2267

5/15 Emily Dickinson 2554-2558; poems numbered 112, 122, 225, 339, 269, 320, 236, 620, 446, 348, 519, 935, 1263, 1489

5/22 **Final Examination** 7:15-9:30am (SLOs: 2, 3, 5)