



North Central State College

MASTER SYLLABUS

2026-2027

- A. Academic Division: Liberal Arts
- B. Discipline: English
- C. Course Number and Title: ENGL2050 American Literature I
- D. Assistant Dean: Laura Irmer, MFA, MA
- E. Credit Hours: 3
- F. Prerequisites: ENGL1030 (with a C- or above)
- G. Last Course/Curriculum Revision Date: Fall 2023 Origin date: 03/08/2011
- H. Textbook(s) Title:

Open Education Resources (available for download or view)

Becoming America: An Exploration of American Literature from Precolonial to Post-Revolution

- Authors: Kurant, W.
- Copyright Year: 2019
- Edition:
- ISBN: 978-1-94077-46-5
- OER Link: <https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/english-textbooks/19/>

- I. Workbook(s) and/or Lab Manual: None
- J. Course Description: American Literature I is a survey course that examines the development of American literature in English from the early colonies through the Civil War. Through the use of selected texts, students will become familiar with key authors and works that represent American literature in English and the multiple voices within it. As a survey course, American Literature I is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the historical and cultural conditions that influenced the development and formation of American literature. This course will provide the necessary background for a more in-depth understanding of and appreciation for American literature not covered in the course, and it will prepare students for more advanced study of literature in general. (TAG # OAH053)
- K. College-Wide Learning Objectives:

College-Wide Learning Outcomes	Assessments - - How it is met & When it is met
Communication – Written	
Communication – Speech	
Intercultural Knowledge and Competence	
Critical Thinking	
Information Literacy	
Quantitative Literacy	

L. Course Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall:

Outcomes	Assessments – How it is met & When it is met
1. Demonstrate familiarity with the historical and cultural context which produces American literature.	Analytical essays and response essays (early and middle of term). Weekly written assignments and quizzes throughout the term; and mid-term and final exams.
2. Demonstrate mastery of techniques used to analyze a text.	Analytical essays and response essays, early and middle of the term.
3. Demonstrate critical reading and writing skills; discuss the significance of American authors and movements.	Analytical essays and response essays, early and middle of the term.
4. Analyze and interpret American literature up to the mid- to late-nineteenth century.	Analytical essays and response essays, early and middle of the term; a mid-term and final exam.

M. Recommended Grading Scale:

NUMERIC	GRADE	POINTS	DEFINITION
93–100	A	4.00	Superior
90–92	A-	3.67	Superior
87–89	B+	3.33	Above Average
83–86	B	3.00	Above Average
80–82	B-	2.67	Above Average
77–79	C+	2.33	Average
73–76	C	2.00	Average
70–72	C-	1.67	Average
67–69	D+	1.33	Below Average
63–66	D	1.00	Below Average
60–62	D-	0.67	Below Average
00--59	F	0.00	Failure

N. College Procedures/Policies:

North Central State College believes that every student is a valued and equal member of the community.* Every student brings different experiences to the College, and all are important in enriching academic life and developing greater understanding and appreciation of one another. Therefore, NC State College creates an inclusive culture in which students feel comfortable sharing their experiences. Discrimination and prejudice have no place on the campus, and the College takes any complaint in this regard seriously. Students encountering aspects of the instruction that result in barriers to their sense of being included and respected should contact the instructor, assistant dean, or dean without fear of reprisal.

* *Inclusive of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (40 years or older), status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, genetic information, or sexual orientation*

Important information regarding College Procedures and Policies can be found on the syllabus supplement located at

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-081b.pdf>



North Central State College
SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

Academic Division:	Liberal Arts	Discipline:	English
Course Coordinator:	Thomas Shields		
Course Number:	ENGL 2050 -920	Course Title:	American Literature I
Semester / Session:	Fall 2026 / Session A	Start / End Date:	08/17/2026 thru 10/09/2026

Instructor Information

Name:	Pamela Henney	Credentials:	B.S. English Education, M.A. Rhetoric & Composition, 18 hours at Masters level Literature
Phone Number:	567-876-1115	E-Mail Address:	phenney@ncstatecollege.edu
Office Location:	135H Fallarius	Office Hours:	TR 1- 3 p.m. in person or online @ Henney Office Hour Link , W 1-3 p.m. online ONLY @ Henney Office Hour Link or by appointment

I. Topical Timeline / Course Calendar (Subject to Change):

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Pre and Early - Colonial	Syllabus and supplements 1.2 Introduction to Pre and Early Colonial Literature 1.3.1 "Creation Story" 1.3.2 "How the Word Was Made" ... 1.3.6. "Thanksgiving Address" 1.3.7 "The Arrival of the Whites"	Class Introduction Discussion Weekly Accountability Creation Stories Discussion Thanksgiving and Coming of the White Man Discussion Thanksgiving and Coming of the White Man Discussion Writing Sample
Week 2	17 th Century Work (Puritan/Colonial)	2.2 Introduction to 17 th Century English Colonial Literature 2.4 Intro to Winthrop 2.4.1 "A Model of Christian Charity" 2.7 Intro to Bradstreet 2.7.1 "The Prologue" 2.7.2 "The Author to Her Book" 2.7.3 "To My Dear and Loving Husband" ... 2.9 Intro to Rowlandson 2.9.1 From <i>The Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson</i> (long- pages	Bradstreet Discussion Rowland Discussion Practice Analysis Weekly Accountability

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		TBA)	
Week 3	Revolutionary and Early National Period	3.2 Introduction to Revolutionary and Early National Period Literature 3.4 Intro to Franklin 3.4.4 From The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (p.326-360, 364-374 TBA) 3.18 Intro to Cherokee Women 3.18.1 Letter to Benjamin Franklin ••• 3.11 Intro to Equiano 3.11.2 Excerpt The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (p. 525-546) 3.8 Intro to Paine 3.8.1 From <i>Common Sense</i> (p.442-446)	Essay 1 Draft Check via Tutoring or Conferencing ••• Franklin/Equiano Discussion Paine Discussion Quizzes Weekly Accountability
Week 4	Testing & Writing	•••	Midterm Exam ••• Essay 1 Final Due
Week 5	19 th Century (Romanticism/ American Renaissance)	4.2 Intro 19 th Century Romanticism and Transcendentalism 4.13 Intro to Hawthorne 4.13.3 “Young Goodman Brown” 4.13.4 “The Birthmark” ••• 4.16 Intro to Poe 4.4.16.2 “The Raven” 4.16.3 “Annabel Lee” 4. 16. 5 “The Fall of the House of Usher” 4.16.6 “The Tell-Tale Heart”	Hawthorne Discussion ••• Poe Discussion Summary/Response Assignment Essay 2 Intro Quizzes Weekly Accountability
Week 6	19 th Century (Transcendentalism/ Realism)	4.11. Intro to Emerson 4.11.3 “Self-Reliance” 4.11.4 “Experience” ••• 4. 21 Intro to Thoreau 4.21.1 “Resistance to Civil Government” 4.22 Intro to Douglass 4.22.1 From <i>Narrative of the Life</i>	Emerson Discussion ••• Thoreau Discussion Drafting Essay 2 Quizzes Weekly Accountability
Week 7	19 th Century (Transcendentalism)	4.24 Intro to Whitman 4.24.1 “Song of Myself” ••• 4.26 Intro to Dickens 4.26.5 “Some Keep the Sabbath Going to Church”	Essay 2 Draft Check via Tutoring or Conferencing Whitman Discussion ••• Dickens Discussion Quizzes Weekly Accountability

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		4.26.11 “I Would Not Paint a Picture” 4.26.13 “It was not Death, for I Stood Up” 4. 26.14 “A Bird, cam down the Walk”	
Week 8	Testing &Writing	•••	Final Exam ••• Essay 2 Final Due

II. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

Final Grade Calculation

Activity	Qty	Points	Percentage
Accountability, Assignments, Quizzes	11		5%
Class Introduction		10	
6 Weekly Check Ins		30	
Tutoring Conferences		10	
Writing Conferences		10	
Essay 1 Peer Editing		10	
Essay 2 Peer Editing		10	
Discussion Online	12	120	15%
12 Author Discussions			
Response Assignment	1	100	10%
Major Essays	2		30%
Essay 1 Literary Analysis		100	
Essay 2 Comparative Analysis		100	
Examinations	2		40%
Midterm Exam		32	
Final Exam		45	

III. Examination Policy:

Midterm Exam in Week 4
Final Exam in Week 8

Each exam is digital via Canvas quiz too, and open from Monday 12 a.m. to Friday 11:59 p.m. with the option of two attempts.
If more time is possibly needed, students must email request extra time before the exam opens.
If students find they need more time during the exam, students must email a request and document the issues and the instructor will consider offering more time.

IV. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and participation are essential for success in this course. Class activities are designed to help you develop critical reading, research, writing, and revision skills, as well as explore a variety of writing genres and formats. Students are expected to:

- Complete assigned readings and coursework.
- Actively participate in discussions, workshops, peer reviews, and other learning activities.

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- Apply course concepts and writing strategies to their work.
- Do your own work.
NCSC [Academic Integrity](#)
NCSC [Plagiarism](#)
NCSC ENGLISH DEPARTMENT [AI Usage](#)
NCSC [Academic Honesty/Dishonesty](#)

First-Week Requirement

To remain enrolled in the course, you must complete the required first-week assignments (Critical Thinking and Writing Exercise) by the Monday of Week 2. Students who do not meet this requirement may be withdrawn for non-attendance.

Absences

All absences are generally considered unexcused. Exceptions may be made for documented emergencies, such as hospitalization, a death in the immediate family, or other serious circumstances. These situations will be handled individually.

Because this course requires a significant time commitment, students should plan ahead for work, family, and personal responsibilities. For a 3-credit-hour course, expect to spend approximately 9–12 hours per week completing coursework outside of class.

Required Conferences and Tutoring

For each major essay, students are required to:

- Meet with the instructor for an individual writing conference.
- Meet with the embedded writing coach/tutor for a tutoring session.

These conferences are part of the course requirements and earn participation points.

Participation in an Online Asynchronous Course

Participation involves more than simply submitting assignments. Students are expected to:

- Engage actively with course materials.
- Communicate with the instructor as needed.
- Participate in discussions and other learning activities.
- Ask questions and seek clarification when necessary.

Regular participation helps ensure you understand assignment expectations and develop stronger writing skills.

Late Assignment Policy

Submit all assignments by the deadline listed in Canvas and on the assignment instructions. Once the submission window closes, a penalty of up to **10% per calendar day** may be deducted from the assignment grade.

Assignments more than **two weeks late** will not be accepted unless there is a documented emergency or death in the immediate family.

Grace Period:

Each assignment has an “open” deadline but is not late until the submission window closes, the length of time will be different for different types of assignments. Check the Canvas submission window for the Available Until date/time, which is when the window closes.

Late penalties do not apply until the submission window closes.

Therefore, pay close attention to the "Available Until" date and time in Canvas.

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Extensions:

Extensions may be requested before an assignment is due. Extensions are typically granted only to students who have been actively working with the instructor or writing coach.

Do Not Email Assignments:

Do not email assignments after the Canvas submission window has closed unless you have received prior instructor approval. Unauthorized emailed assignments will not be graded.

Tutoring Requirement

Tutoring is a required part of this course and earns participation points.

The embedded writing coach and the Tutoring/Writing Center are available to help you:

- Develop ideas
- Strengthen drafts
- Overcome writer's block
- Improve critical reading, thinking, and writing skills

Writing coaching is not just for students who are struggling; it is a valuable resource for all writers. Each tutoring session, whether completed online or in person, counts toward your participation grade.

V. Classroom Expectations:

Engage in the Writing Process

Writing is a skill that improves through practice, revision, and reflection. You are expected to take ownership of your learning and actively participate in all stages of the writing process.

- Attend class, writing conferences, and tutoring sessions.
- Complete drafts, revisions, and editing activities.
- Ask questions when you need help.
- Watch assigned videos and review course materials in Canvas. Students who consistently participate and seek support are more likely to succeed in the course.

Adopt a Growth Mindset

This course is designed to help you grow as a reader, thinker, and writer. Be open to feedback, new ideas, and challenges. Mistakes are part of the learning process, and improvement is expected throughout the semester. The skills you develop in this course will support your success in college, your career, and lifelong learning.

Respect Others

A respectful classroom is essential for learning.

Students are expected to:

- Listen attentively when others are speaking.
- Avoid interrupting or talking over classmates and the instructor.
- Respect viewpoints that may differ from their own.
- Provide constructive and professional feedback during peer reviews.

When reviewing a classmate's work, focus on the effectiveness of the writing rather than whether you agree with the writer's opinions.

Communication

When contacting the instructor, include:

- Your name
- Course number
- Section number

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Email is the preferred method of communication. Use professional and respectful language in all emails and messages. Communication is generally welcome between **9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.** Responses are typically provided within 24 hours.

Online Classroom Etiquette

For online or hybrid meetings:

- Mute your microphone when not speaking.
- Turn on your camera when speaking, if possible.
- Be respectful and avoid talking over others.
- Ask questions and participate in discussions.
- Attend class from an appropriate learning environment and wear attire suitable for a college classroom.

If family members, pets, or other interruptions occur, mute your microphone and camera if needed, address the situation, and return to class as soon as possible.

Recording and Privacy

Students may not photograph, record, or share class sessions, course materials, conferences, or tutoring sessions without instructor approval or approved accommodations.

Recording of individual writing conferences may be permitted with prior instructor approval. Any sharing or posting of conference recordings or course-related materials is strictly prohibited.

Technology Issues

If you lose internet access or are disconnected during conference:

1. Notify the instructor or writing coach as soon as possible.
2. Attempt to reconnect several times.
3. If you cannot return, review any posted recordings or materials and contact the instructor for guidance.

Weather and Emergencies

If the college closes because of weather or other emergencies, follow any instructions provided by the college and instructor regarding class meetings, conferences, or assignment deadlines.

If an emergency prevents you from attending class or completing course requirements, notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Classroom Safety

The safety and well-being of all students is a priority. If a serious safety concern or emergency occurs during a class session or conference, college emergency procedures will be followed and appropriate authorities may be contacted when necessary.