Competing Voices of the American Renaissance - Course Overview:

In this section, we will study the literature of a specific, prolific time period in American Literary History, the 1850s and early 1860s. In working through this age, we will begin with some of the dead white men—Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman—who are often associated with the American Renaissance, a period that established the prestige of the American Literary Tradition. With *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, a novel more popular in its time than anything by the aforementioned writers, as our turning point, we will turn our focus to texts initially excluded from the American Canon, including Martin Delany’s *Blake*, one of the earliest novels by an African American; Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, which gave voice to women’s specific struggles in slavery; and Emily Dickinson’s poetry, written in private during this pivotal time in American History. Working towards a comprehensive introduction to literature, we will examine novels, short stories, and poems, as well as important historical and critical documents.

Beyond reading and discussing these works, we will also focus on the craft of writing about literature—ways of analyzing texts, developing complicated arguments, and composing carefully structured and revised papers.

Prerequisite:

This is a writing-intensive (W) course approved to fulfill the upper tier of the graduation writing requirement (GWR). To receive W credit for this course, you must have successfully completed the first-year writing requirement (ENG 104 or its equivalent) and have completed at least 30 hours of coursework.

Required Texts: These texts are available at the UK Bookstore and Kennedy’s. (Please get the specified editions below, especially for ** works)


We will rely heavily on the Barton and Hudson text in our discussion of key concepts and terms in the literary works. Some of the terms we will be covering include (but will not be limited to) the following: *Alliteration, Allusion, Antagonist, Antithesis, Character, Flashback, Foil, Foreshadowing, Imagery, Irony, Metaphor, Meter, Narrative Point of View, Personification, Plot, Protagonist, Rhyme, Satire, Setting, Simile, Stanza, Symbol, and Tone.*

Learning Outcomes:

- Write a paper that is essentially free of mechanical errors (grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax) and awkwardness, using a style that is appropriate to the purpose and audience.
- Demonstrate an ability to discover, evaluate, and clearly present evidence in support of an argument in the subject and utilize documentation that conforms to the format and the citation conventions of the subject area.
Be aware that composing a successful paper frequently takes multiple drafts, with varying degrees of focus on generating, revising, editing, and proofreading.

Write a capable, interesting essay about a complex issue (discipline-specific) for a general university audience.

Writing Requirements:
- Students will be required to write a minimum of 15 pages of formal writing. At least 10 of these pages must be single-authored assignments. No assignments requiring fewer than 4 pages may be included in the 15-page minimum.
- These 15 pages must go through a draft, review, and revision process (peer review meets this requirement).

Course Guidelines:
- Grades on work submitted late will be lowered one letter grade per calendar day, not class session. Assignments received more than three days late will receive no credit. All assignments and rewrites must be submitted by 4:00 PM on Friday, December 7, 2007.
- E-mail Submissions: You may submit your two papers by e-mail; files must be saved in MS Word format (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf) and sent as attachments before class on the due date. Assignments submitted during or after class by e-mail will be considered late.
- I expect you not only to attend class but to arrive prepared with all necessary materials. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact me to find out what you missed and to turn in any due assignments. Even if no assignment is on the course schedule for that day, do not assume nothing was assigned. Handouts that you do not receive will be available on the course webpage.

Grading Requirements:
- To pass this course and fulfill the upper tier of the GWR (Ws), you must submit all formal writing assignments and earn a grade of C or better on each assignment. If your first written paper receives a D or below, it must be revised to reflect competency, and then resubmitted. You may revise this assignment one time. Your second paper must receive a grade of C or above on your first attempt.
- If you fail to achieve a C grade on the final version of any major writing assignment, you will receive a failing grade for the course.
- Note that assignments are requirements other than the formal writing will become a factor in the final determination of your course grade only if you have achieved a grade of C or higher on all formal writing assignments.

Final Course Evaluation, Evaluation Standards, and Grade Components:

Papers and exams will receive grades between “A” and “E,” which have the following numerical values: A=12, A- =11, B+ =10, B =9, B- =8, C+ =7, C =6, C- =5, D+ =4, D =3, D- =2, and E =1. When your assignment grades are weighed and averaged, your final course grade will be determined using the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.65-12.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0-10.64</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.65-7.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.45-4.64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.00-2.44</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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U.K. has no +/- final course grades.

The following components of your grade will be translated into the above grading scale in calculating your final course grade. Due dates are subject to change.

Paper 1—8 pages: 20% (Due: 10/18)
Paper 2—8 pages: 25% (Due: 12/6)
Midterm Exam: 10% (Date: 10/02)
Final Exam: 15% (Date: 12/13 – 8:00 AM)
Attendance/Participation: 15%
Other Assignments/Homework: 15%
1. **Papers**: You will write two significant papers for this course. You will receive detailed assignment sheets that explain project components, objectives, requirements, and grading criteria. For all assignments, you will complete project proposals to outline your initial ideas and goals, in-class group workshops on your drafts, and revisions of your first drafts. The above due dates are tentative. Any changes will be made to benefit the students and will be provided in writing well in advance of the revised due date.

2. **Exams**: Exams will consist of short answer, identification, and essay questions, covering literary terms from Barton and Hudson, important historical events, and the literary texts. Points from class discussion will be especially pertinent to your preparation for exams. Information for review will be provided before each exam.

3. **Attendance/Participation**: Attendance will be recorded each day, and you are expected to attend class. Each day, you will receive an attendance/participation score of between zero and three. The score values are described below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Absent, more than 15 minutes late, OR present and disruptive (including cell phone/text messaging disruptions) to instructor and/or classmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tardy (more than 3 minutes late), present and disengaged, chatty, or asleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Present and engaged in class discussion or group work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Present and actively involved and participating in class discussion or group work</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This class meets 30 times; however, the average attendance scores will be determined by dividing your total points by 28, so you may miss two classes penalty free. After your second absence, absences will begin to affect your grade. When your total points are averaged, your attendance/participation grade will be figured out using the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.75 – 3.0</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1.55 – 1.94</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 – 2.74</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>1.35 – 1.54</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 – 2.49</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.0 – 1.34</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.95 – 2.19</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>0 .99</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
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Certain absences may be excused (see http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/ for more information). If you believe an absence should be excused, please present me with the proper documentation within 1 week of the absence.

Attendance and participation are valued components of this course; therefore, students who miss over 25% of our class meetings (due to excused or unexcused absences) will not be able to pass the course. Upon your 8th absence, you will not be able to pass the course.

4. **Other Assignments/Homework**: This broadly defined category encompasses topic proposals, homework assignments, peer workshop responses, in-class writing, and quizzes. Your lowest two grades in this category will be dropped in your grade calculation. Assignments in this category will often be graded on a $\checkmark+$ (exceptional: “A”), $\checkmark$ (satisfactory: “B”), $\checkmark-$ (unsatisfactory: “C”), and “0” (no credit) scale.

**Final Paper for GWR (W) Students - Assessment**: Please submit two copies of your final paper to the instructor. One copy will be graded by the instructor; the second copy will be used for SACS assessment and should be a clean copy, with only your student ID number listed at the top of the page, with all other identifying information (your name, instructor name, and course and section number) removed.

Questions about the W option should be referred to the Directors of the UK Writing Initiative, Professor Janet Carey Eldred, eldred@uky.edu.
Academic Integrity:
Part II of Students Rights and Responsibilities (http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, etc. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be part of the public domain. (Section 6.3.1). The minimum penalty for an academic offense, such as cheating or plagiarism, is an E for the course (6.4.1).

Writing Center:
The Writing Center in Thomas D. Clark Study on the 5th floor of the W.T. Young Library is available to help you with your writing problems (conceptual and technical) and the writing process. To make an appointment in advance, call 257-1368; drop-in visits are also welcome. For more information on the writing center, please visit their web site: http://www.uky.edu/AS/English/wc/ You can now make writing center consultation appointments on the writing center's web site.

Conferences:
If you have concerns about the course, come see me during my office hours or arrange a time for a meeting. While I only have office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, I will be on campus other days and be available to meet with you if you arrange a time in advance. Worrying and complaining are not substitutes for seeking available help. I am readily available to assist you with the course.

A Fair Warning:
Although this course fulfills the humanities requirement, it is not required. It is a literature course that requires extensive reading and writing, and you are expected to keep up with the workload. If that sounds too difficult, or if you are not interested in this specific time period, I encourage you to drop and enroll in a different section to fulfill your GWR.

Course Webpage and E-mail:
I will post announcements, changes to the schedules, handouts, sample essays, and other materials to the course webpage on a regular basis. If you miss a class, please check the webpage the following day for updates. The page also contains a variety of links that will be useful for your research and work for this course. When necessary, I will e-mail reminders or announcements to the class. The quickest way for you to contact me outside of class will be by e-mail; I check for new messages regularly and respond within reasonable time.

Disability Services:
If you have a disability that requires assistance from the Disability Resource Center, please discuss this with me so that we can ensure that the proper arrangements will be made for you.