

Welcome to ENG 210L-721: American Literature I online – Summer 2024 CRN: 10027

Dear Students in **American Literature I online**:

Welcome to ENG210: American Literature I for Summer 2024

ENG210L-721 CRN: 10027

Monday, June 3 – Friday, July 26, 2024

Online

Required Texts: The required texts will be provided as PDF's and URL Weblinks. Many of our texts for *American Literature I* (literature prior to 1900) are digitized on Project Gutenberg (PG) and are available in the public domain for free open access. **You do not have to purchase a textbook.**

Required Computer Access: All students must have regular access to the **Brightspace** site during each week that the course is in session. You will need to use your Marist account to log in.

Course Content Description

This course has been designed to give you a historical perspective of the literature during the formative years of the United States. The authors chosen for this course represent only some of the many writers whose works reflect the cultural climate of this nation from the early colonial settlements through the Civil War. We will strive to hear American literature as a chorus of different *kinds* of voices. This course will help you put some of America's national literature into a historical perspective that will add to your comprehending of United States culture today. In an attempt to understand how these texts have come to be defined as "American," we will examine their historical, social, and political contexts. We will approach these "canonical" works as active agents that have participated in the creation of the very identity of the United States.

We will ask meaningful questions: What clues does this literature offer about its own time and place? How have characters' lives been caught between various forms of oppression? How do these texts address questions about race, class, and gender? How do they attempt to raise consciousness about particular issues? What specific rhetorical strategies do authors employ as they craft language in order to persuade readers to their point of view? What is the relationship of these works to our own historical moment?

You will be required to keep up with the assigned readings, type answers to Study Set Questions in Assignments, post two times a week in the Discussions Forum, write two Essays, and submit a Final Essay. The success of this course depends upon *you* and your willingness to prepare and participate. You will increase your powers of critique as you engage in more complex intellectual analysis. In the Discussions Forum, feel free to ask thought-provoking questions, use your imagination, and share insights. You are expected to be supportive and encouraging to your classmates, enthusiastic about learning, and demonstrate a strong work ethic. In your writings for the course, you will develop strong thesis statements and engage in comparative analysis. Follow the grammatical and stylistic conventions of academic discourse. Proofread your work for grammar and spelling before handing in typed assignments. I look forward to discussing some great literature with you Online and hope you feel free to share your insights, creativity, and imagination!

*The **Syllabus** includes how the course is graded and the Reading Calendar. Use the detailed **READING CALENDAR & WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS section on the Syllabus** as the main guide to follow instructions for all aspects of the course in **BRIGHTSPACE**, such as:

1)ASSIGNMENTS in Brightspace holds **Study Set Questions** due on Sunday evenings by 11:55p.m. Attached to Assignments at the very bottom you will find some of the primary course readings, such as short stories, essays, and book chapters. Other readings have weblinks. Attachments to Assignments also include supplementary lecture materials.

2) DISCUSSIONS Forum Post Due Dates. "Start a New Thread" Post 1 due Wednesday by 11:55p.m.; and "Reply to Thread" Post 2 by Sunday at 11:55p.m.

3) Due Dates for Essay #1, Essay #2, and the Final Examination.

I very much look forward to meeting you Online. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Brief Biography:

Professor Mercier has been teaching full-time at Marist College since 2007 and is a Lecturer of American and Environmental Literature in the Department of English. His main areas of expertise are in 19th-Century American Literature, Nature Writing, and Rhetoric & Composition. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Rhode Island, where he wrote his dissertation upon Hudson Valley nature writer John Burroughs (1837-1921). Since then he has published several journal articles and book chapters on Burroughs and has been interviewed by *The New York Times* and National Public Radio (NPR).

Sincerely,
Dr. Stephen Mercier

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during the Summer session at:

E-mail: Stephen.Mercier@marist.edu