

American Literature
Fall 2017

Texts:

Adventures in American Literature (AAL, textbook provided)
The Scarlett Letter, by Nathaniel Hawthorn (any unabridged edition)
Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott (any unabridged edition)
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain

Assignment Prior to First Co-Op

1. Read chapters 1-4 of *The Scarlett Letter* and the introduction to the novel (“The Custom House”).
2. Begin filling in Study Guide.

September 1: Overview and Introduction to American Literature; the Beginnings of the American Tradition (Puritan and Cavalier writers).

Assignment (due September 8)

1. Read chapters 5-8 in *The Scarlett Letter*. Continue to fill in Study Guide.
2. Read the introductory material about the following men in *AAL* and be prepared to identify for a quiz: William Bradford (pp. 7-8), William Byrd (p. 18), Jonathan Edwards (pp. 24-25), Benjamin Franklin (pp. 30-31), Patrick Henry (p. 50), and Thomas Paine (p. 54).
3. Read pages 8-11, 14-18, 32-42, 51-53, and 55-57 in *AAL*. Know who wrote which work and its general content.

September 8: Quiz on reading assignments. Discuss Franklin and Edwards.

Assignment (due September 22)

1. Read chapters 9-15 in *The Scarlet Letter*. Continue filling in Study Guide.
2. Read introductory material on Washington Irving (pp. 99-100) and “The Devil and Tom Walker” (pp. 100-108). Be prepared to discuss his worldview and use of humor in class.

September 22: Discuss Early Men of Letters. Discuss Irving, Bryant, and read examples 19th century American poetry.

Assignment (due September 29)

1. Read chapters 16-20 in *The Scarlet Letter*. Continue filling in Study Guide.
2. Read introduction to Poe (pp. 117-118) and “The Fall of the House of Usher” (pp. 127-138).

September 29: Discuss Poe, his essay on composition, and “The Raven.”

Assignment (due October 13)

1. Read chapters 20-24 in *The Scarlett Letter*. Continue filling in Study Guide.
2. Do assignment #1 in the “For Composition” section (p. 140).

October 13: Exchange paragraphs. Discuss New England Writers.

Assignment (due October 20)

1. Complete Study Guide.
2. Read Wikipedia article on Louisa May Alcott and *AAL* introduction on Walt Whitman.
3. Read chapters 1-10 of *Little Women* and begin Study Guide.

October 20: Discuss *The Scarlett Letter*.

Assignment (due October 27)

1. Study for *The Scarlett Letter* test, using Study Guide and class notes.
2. Read chapters 11-18 of *Little Women*. Continue to fill in Study Guide.

October 27: Take *The Scarlett Letter* exam. Discuss Melville. Introduce *Little Women* and John Bunyan.

Assignment (due November 3)

1. Read chapters 19-29 of *Little Women*. Continue to fill in Study Guide.

November 3: Discuss exams. Introduce “Tragedy and Renewal.”

Assignment (due November 17)

1. Read chapters 30-39 of *Little Women*. Continue to fill in Study Guide.

November 17: Elements of Fiction

Assignments (due December 4)

1. Finish *Little Women*. Continue to fill in Study Guide.
2. Prepare for Final Exam.

December 4: Final Exam.

Before beginning of next semester: Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain and complete Study Guide.