

Dr. Hannes Bergthaller
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2223 INTRODUCTION TO U.S. AMERICAN LITERATURE I
Monday 9-12 PM – Fall 2008/09

COURSE OUTLINE

1	08/09	<i>Introduction: What do we talk about when we say “American Literature”?</i> <i>(and why bother?)</i>
2	15/09	<i>The First Settlers</i> John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” [only excerpt] William Bradford, <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> John Smith, “A Description of New England”
3	22/10	<i>Puritan Hegemony and its Decline</i> Mary Rowlandson, <i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson</i> Anne Bradstreet, <i>Contemplations</i> , “The Author to Her Book” Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” [only excerpt]
4	29/10	<i>The Age of Enlightenment</i> Benjamin Franklin, <i>Autobiography</i> [281-292] St. Jean de Crèvecoeur, <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i>
5	06/10	<i>The Early Republic</i> Thomas Jefferson, <i>Autobiography</i> , “The Declaration of Independence” Thomas Paine, <i>Common Sense</i> Philip Freneau, “On the Emigration to America and Peopling the Western Country” Phillis Wheatly, “On Being Brought from Africa to America”
6	13/10	<i>The Rise of Literature as a Profession I</i> Susanna Rowson, <i>Charlotte Temple: A Tale of the Truth</i> , Preface, Chapters VI, VII, XXVIII, , XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXV [http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/171] Thomas Jefferson, “Letter to Nathaniel Burwell, Esq.” Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”
7	20/10	<i>The Rise of Literature as a Profession II</i> James Fenimore Cooper, <i>The Pioneers</i> , Chapters II [excerpt] & III Edgar Allen Poe, Review of <i>Twice Told Tales</i> [excerpt] Nathaniel Hawthorne; Preface to <i>The House of Seven Gables</i> ; “The Maypole at Merry Mount”
8	27/10	<i>Edgar Allen Poe</i> Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”; “The Philosophy of Composition”
9	03/11	<i>New England Trancendentalism and the Cult of Nature</i> Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature,” Introduction & Chapters I, II, III, VIII; “The American Scholar” [excerpt] Henry David Thoreau, “Walking”[excerpt]; <i>Walden</i> , “2. Where I Lived, and What I Lived For”

10	10/11	MIDTERM EXAM (35%)
11	17/11	<i>Poetry of the American Renaissance I</i> Walt Whitman, <i>Leaves of Grass</i> , Preface, Sections 1-3, 24, 51-52
12	24/11	<i>Poetry of the American Renaissance II</i> Emily Dickinson, Letters on E.D. from T.W. Higginson to His Wife [excerpt], 435, 465, 501, 712, 986, 1078, 1732 Edgar Allan Poe, “The Raven”
13	01/12	<i>The Origins of U.S. Feminism</i> Margret Fuller, <i>The Great Lawsuit. MAN versus MEN. WOMAN versus WOMEN.</i> Elisabeth Cady Stanton, „The Declaration of Sentiments“
14	08/12	<i>Herman Melville</i> Herman Melville, “Hawthorne and His Mosses”; <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chapters I, X, XXVIII, XLII [http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2701]
15	15/12	<i>The Slave Narrative and the Literature of Abolitionism I</i> Frederick Douglass, “The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro” Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself</i> , Chapters I, VI, VII, IX, X (up to middle of page 961)
16	22/12	<i>The Slave Narrative and the Literature of Abolitionism II</i> Harriet Beecher-Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i> , Chapters VII & IX; Chapter XII [excerpt] Abraham Lincoln, “The Gettysburg Address”
17	29/12	<i>Concluding Discussion</i>
18	05/01	FINAL EXAM (45%)
<p>You will need to prepare answers to a set of study questions for <i>one</i> of the sessions; for your answers, you will receive an oral grade accounting for 20% of the final grade. The power point presentations I use in class, excerpts from all the texts, as well as samples from earlier exams will all be available on the web – please look at: http://www.tku.edu.tw/list/faculty/foreign.htm under my Chinese name: 貝格泰</p>		