For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world.

- John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity,” (1630)

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance,” (1841)

**Course Overview:**

This course will examine the growth of the American literary canon, looking at a diverse array of voices spanning the era of colonialism to the outbreak of the Civil War. Its goal is to familiarize students with what is distinctive about American literature in its initial stages. Of the many themes that emerge across this historical span, we will look closely at the evolving dichotomy between individuality and community that is prevalent in so many of these early texts.

**Required Texts:**

Listed below are the required texts for the class, which are available at the University Bookstore, as well as through various online vendors (Amazon, etc.).


Remaining course materials (essays, articles, etc.) will be distributed either on Blackboard (http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu) or as handouts.

**Grading:**

In order to pass the course, you must attend class regularly, complete two papers, and pass a midterm and final exam. There is a significant amount of reading assigned, so be sure to keep pace and participate in class discussions to ensure that you have a solid grasp on the material.
Additionally, there will be **four reading quizzes** given once per month. These will encompass the assigned reading of the prior weeks, up to and including that day’s readings, and they will be announced a week in advance. They will be brief (20 minutes), and consist of short answer prompts. I will not give make-up quizzes unless you provide an official excuse.

*Note: All four major assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.*

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1 – (5 pages)</td>
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<td>Essay 2 – (5 pages)</td>
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<td>Exam 1 – Midterm</td>
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<td>Exam 2 – Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
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**Attendance and Lateness:**

I will distribute an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class, so be on the lookout for it. You may miss two classes for any reason. A third absence brings your final letter grade down by one half of a grade. As per department policy, if you miss four or more classes, you fail the course.

A student will be considered late if s/he arrives to class from 3:30 pm onward (10 minutes after the start of class). In these cases, one late arrival will equate to half an absence.

If you are absent, then you are still required to be prepared for the next class. You can determine the assignments from the Blackboard emails that I send following each class meeting.

**Email Correspondence:**

1. **Have an active account.** For the duration of this course, you must use your official SBU email account (@stonybrook.edu) and be able to check it at least once daily, as I use the Blackboard email feature frequently to communicate deadlines, assignments, and policies.

2. **Identify yourself.** Ensure that your emails to me identify who you are—i.e. not merely some obscure address like “strongisland69@aol.com” that addresses me as “Hey.” Always include your name at the end of all correspondence, both to expedite your requests and limit confusion. If I don’t know who you are, I will not respond to you.

3. **Be professional.** In all correspondence, use clear sentences (i.e. no Internet jargon) whose logic I can follow.

**Handing in Papers:**

1. **Submit assignments on time** - Submit all papers and by the start of class on the due date indicated. Failure to do so will cause the grade to decrease one half-letter grade per class day late. Electronic submissions will only be accepted with prior permission.

2. **Adhere to standard rules of formatting** - Papers must be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font and double-spaced. Margins should be 1-inch on all sides. Don’t include a title page but do title the piece, and be sure to number all pages. Follow MLA citation guidelines.

3. **Staple your work** - Papers must be stapled, with your name at the top of the first page.
Learning Outcomes

This course will contribute to the following learning outcomes for the B.A. in English:

1. Read texts closely with attention to nuances of language, content and form.

2. Write focused, organized and convincing analytical essays in clear, standardized English prose, making use of feedback from teachers and peers.

3. Locate, evaluate, synthesize and incorporate relevant primary and secondary source materials into thesis-driven, interpretive essays of increasing length and complexity.

4. Understand conventions of literary study, including: familiarity with literary terms, genres, devices; knowledge of poetic, dramatic, narrative and rhetorical forms; awareness of literary criticism and theory.

5. Participate in discussions by listening to others’ perspectives, asking productive questions, and articulating ideas with nuance and clarity.

6. Know a broad range of English and American literatures with an understanding of how texts emerge from, respond to and shape historical and cultural contexts.

Academic Integrity:

If you have someone else write your paper, submit a paper you’ve written for another course, or take another’s work without proper credit, you are in violation of the academic integrity code set up by Stony Brook University. I will set aside class time in the beginning of the semester to review and explain the various forms of plagiarism, so that all are aware of what this term imports. In accordance with departmental policy, all cases will be referred to the Academic Judiciary. Be aware that plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty can result in expulsion from the University.

The Writing Center:

The University Writing Center is located in 2009 Humanities Building and opens for the Spring 2014 semester in mid February. This is a free resource offered by the Writing Department that exists to assist students with a variety of concerns pertaining to their written work, including sentence mechanics, formulating thesis statements, revising, etc. To make an appointment, go to 2009 Humanities, call the front desk at 631-632-7405, or visit www.stonybrook.edu/writingcenter.

If you have a disability:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students requiring emergency evaluation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information, see www.ehs.sunysb.edu/fire/disabilities.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS

M 1.27  INTRODUCTION
W 1.29  WINTHROP  – “A Model of Christian Charity” (pp. 147-158)

M 2.3  BRADFORD  – “Of Plymouth Plantation,” (pp. 104-137)
M 2.3  MORTON  – “New English Canaan,” Cht III (pp. 138-146)
W 2.5  HAWTHORNE  – “The Maypole of Merry-Mount” (pp. 1304-1310)

M 2.10  BRADSTREET  – “The Flesh and the Spirit,” “In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet,” “Verses upon the Burning of Our House” (pp. 202-3, 204, 210, 212)
M 2.12  Mather  – excerpt from The Wonders of the Invisible World (pp. 307-12)
EDWARDS  – “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (pp. 425-436)

M 2.17  CREVECOEUR  – Letter III – “What is an American?” + Letter IX – “Description of Charles-Town” (pp. 595-610)
W 2.19  CREVECOEUR  – Letter XII – “Distresses of a Frontier Man” (pp. 611-615)

M 2.24  FRANKLIN  – The Autobiography, Parts I-II (pp. 472-534)
W 2.26  FRANKLIN  – The Autobiography, Part III (pp. 534-587)

M 3.4  PAINE  – excerpts from Common Sense and The Age of Reason (pp. 629-49)
W 3.6  FRENEAU  – “On the Emigration to America and Peopling the Western Country,” “On Mr. Paine’s Rights of Man” (pp. 743, 748)
WHEATLEY  - “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To His Excellency General Washington” (pp. 752, 761)

M 3.10  REVIEW  – ESSAY 1 DUE
W 3.12  MIDTERM EXAM

M 3.17  NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
W 3.19  NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

M 3.24  FOSTER  – The Coquette (pp. 806-869)
W 3.26  FOSTER  – The Coquette (pp. 869-904)

M 3.31  IRVING  – “The Author’s Account of Himself,” “Rip Van Winkle” (pp. 951-965)
W 4.2  HAWTHORNE  – “My Kinsman, Major Molineux,” (pp. 1272-1289)

M 4.7  DOUGLASS  – Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (pp. 2060-2097)
W 4.9  DOUGLASS  – Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (pp. 2097-2129)

M 4.14  MELVILLE  – “Benito Cereno” (pp. 2405-61)
W 4.16  MELVILLE  – “Benito Cereno”

**ESSAY 2 DUE**
M 4.21  EMERSON  – “Self-Reliance” (pp. 1163-1180)
**FINAL EXAM – DATE/TIME TBD**