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ENGL 360-01, American Literature to 1860, Fall 2001

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Authors	Boswell, Marshall
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Professor: Marshall Boswell
Office Phone/Voice Mail: 843-3581
E-Mail: boswell@rhodes.edu

Office: Palmer 305
Office Hours: M-W 2:30-4:00
T-Th 11:00-12:30, and by appointment

English 360: American Literature to 1860
MWF 12:40-1:40pm — Room 208 Palmer

Required Texts:

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Selected Essays*
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*
Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*
Emily Dickinson, *Final Harvest*
Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Henry James, *The American*
Harold Frederic, *The Damnation of Theron Ware*
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*

Reading Assignments

Aug	22	Introduction to Class
	24	Emerson, "Nature 1836," p. 36
	27	Emerson, "The Divinity Address," p. 107
	29	Emerson, "Self Reliance," p. 175; "The Over-Soul," p. 205
	31	Emerson, "Circles," p. 225; "Experience," p. 285
Sept	3	Labor Day
	5	Emerson, "The American Scholar," p. 83; "The Poet" p. 259;
	7	Whitman, "Song of Myself," first half. [1]
	10	Whitman, "Song of Myself," continued [2]
	12	Whitman, "I Sing the Body Electric"; "Calamus," [3]
	14	Whitman, "Song of the Open Road"; "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" [4]
	17	Whitman, "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"; "Memories of President Lincoln" [5]
	19	Hawthorne, <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> , Chpts. I-V
	21	Hawthorne, <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> , Chpts. VI-X
	24	Hawthorne, <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> , Chpts. XI-XVI [1]
	26	Hawthorne, <i>The House of the Seven Gable</i> , Chpts. XVII-end [2]
	28	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> , Chpts. 1-15
Oct	1	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> , Chpts. 16-42
	3	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> , Chpts. 43-59 [3]
	5	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> , Chpts. 60-80 [4]
	8	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> , Chpts. 81-105
	10	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> , Chpts. 106-130 [5]

- 12 Melville, *Moby-Dick*, Chpts. 131-Epilogue
- 15 Fall Recess**
- 17 Dickinson, "Bio Note," #1, 3, 7, 11, 14, 20, 21, 23, 28, 29, 33, 39, 46, 58, 63-67
- 19 Dickinson, #, 78, 95, 98, 110, 112, 115, 120, 122, 128, 147, 164, 172, 184, 204, 209
- First Paper Due**
- 22 Dickinson, #, , 247, 258, 270, 288-290, 307, 341, 362, 401, 403, 411, 511
- 24 James, *The American*, Chpts. 1-5
- 26 James, *The American*, Chpts. 6-10
- 29 James, *The American*, Chpts. 11-16 [1]
- 31 James, *The American*, Chpts. 17-20 [2]
- Nov 2 James, *The American*, Chpts. 21-end [3]
- 5 Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*, Chpts. 1-16 [4]
- 7 Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*, Chpts. 17-27 [5]
- 9 Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*, Chpts. 28-end
- 12 Frederic, *The Damnation of Theron Ware*, Part I
- 14 Frederic, *The Damnation of Theron Ware*, Part II [1]
- 16 Frederic, *The Damnation of Theron Ware*, Part III [2]
- 19 Frederic, *The Damnation of Theron Ware*, Part IV
- 21 **Thanksgiving Break**
- 23 **Thanksgiving Break**
- 26 Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* [3]
- 28 Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* [4]
- 30 Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* [5]
- Dec 3 Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
- 5 Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
- 10 **Final Paper Due**

POLICIES FOR 360

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we will read and analyze selected works of American literature published during the second half of the 19th century. We will begin with an examination of the Transcendentalist movement, with selected readings from Emerson and Whitman, and then we will look at two authors who maintained an ambiguous, often critical relationship with that distinctly American school of thought. After the fall break, we will look at one more post-Transcendentalist figure, Dickinson, before charting the gradual development of both “realism” and its late-19th Century offshoot, “naturalism.” We will examine these texts both as free-standing works of art and as formative declarations of a young and still evolving American tradition.

ASSIGNMENTS: You will write two papers in this class. The first paper is a 6-8 page analysis of some aspect of any assigned text by Emerson, Whitman, Hawthorne or Melville. The second is a 10-12 page research paper on any *other* text from the semester. This paper will engage with the critical dialogue and must include *at least three* secondary sources.

You will also write two (2) one-to-two page response papers on the day’s reading, as well as two (2) critical essay reviews. **The essays must have been published within the last twenty years and must have appeared in a refereed journal.** You will do these four assignments on a rotating basis according to a group system. The groups are noted in brackets beside the corresponding day’s reading. Each group comes up 4 times throughout the semester; each person is free to decide on what days he/she will write one of the two response papers or one of the two review articles. The only proviso is that the response papers should correspond to that day’s reading, while the article must be about some aspect of the book we are reading.

I will also begin most classes with a brief “pop quiz” on the assigned reading. A failed grade on one of these quizzes will result in an unexcused absence *on top of any other absences, excused or otherwise, you might already have accrued.* If you miss class on a day on which a pop quiz has been assigned, then, clearly, you cannot make it up, for your absence will cover that “missed” grade.

GRADING: All assignments—papers, responses, reviews—are subject to the honor code. This means that, at the end of each assignment, you will write out the honor pledge *in full* and sign it. All work will be evaluated on the basis of the grading scale outlined on page 76 of the current Rhodes College Catalogue. Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Response Papers	5% each (10% total)
Article Reviews	5% each (10% total)
Short Paper	35%
Long Paper	45%

ABSENCES: Failure to bring your book to class will result in an unexcused absence. Failure to pass the day’s pop quiz will also result in an unexcused absence. Absences for illness or emergency are excused as long as they are verified and all work is promptly made up. Obviously, religious holidays count as excusable absences. You are allowed three (3) absences free-of-charge; any absences beyond those two will cost your *final course* average two tenths of a point. If you miss more than eight classes, you will fail the course.

LATE PAPERS: All papers are due on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late assignment will be penalized a tier reduction per day late; in other words, an A becomes a A-, a B+ becomes a B, and so on.

PROBLEMS? Anytime you have a problem about an assignment, PLEASE get in touch with me. You can send me a voice mail, an e-mail. You can even resort to the old-fashioned method of leaving a hand-written a note in my box in Palmer Hall. The key thing is to *keep me informed in advanced.* I can be flexible—to a point—but only if you contact me beforehand.

Response Paper Groups

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

Group 5
