

ENG 394: American Literature I

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Course Credit: Three semester hours

Course Prerequisites: ENG 210

Required Text:

The American Tradition in Literature, Volume I, Tenth edition. McGraw-Hill.

Course Description:

Survey of American Literature from the earliest European colonization to the American Renaissance.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will understand the major themes of early American texts within their historical and philosophical contexts.
2. Students will analyze texts from a variety of literary perspectives.
3. Students will understand the relevance of early American texts to contemporary American cultural and political debates.
4. Students will improve their writing and critical thinking abilities.

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to write synopses of all assigned readings. Each synopsis should contain a single paragraph summary of the reading (except for the synopsis of *The Scarlet Letter*, which should be a page). Students will be required to write three three-page essays during the course of the class in which they take specific works from their reading assignments and give an in-depth analysis of these works. In these papers, the student should provide a clear thesis and be able to write an essay that maintains sufficient support of this thesis. Essays should be written in a 12-point font size and double-spaced. Students will also be required to take a midterm and final exam.