

Fall 2015

ENGL 6001

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University of New Orleans

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English 6001
Fall 2015

John Gery LA 365 280-6361
Off Hrs M 1:30-3:30 pm
T 5-6; 9-10 pm
W 5-6; 9-10 pm
+ by appt.

Early American Poetry from Bradstreet to Dickinson

Texts

Baym, Nina, *et al.*, eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume A: Beginnings to 1820*. Eighth edition. New York: Norton, 2012.
----. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume B: 1820-1865*. Eighth edition. New York: Norton, 2012.
Bradstreet, Anne. *The Works of Anne Bradstreet*. Ed. Jeannine Hensley. [Recommended only]
Dickinson, Emily. *Final Harvest: Emily Dickinson's Poems*. Ed. Thomas H. Johnson. Boston: Little Brown, 1964.
Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Complete Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe*. New York: Signet/NAL/Penguin, 1996, 2008.
Wheatley, Phillis. *Complete Writings*. Ed. Vincent Carretta. New York: Penguin, 2001.

The Course

This course focuses on two hundred years of American poetry from the colonial period of the seventeenth century to the Civil War, ranging from the publication of Anne Bradstreet's *The Tenth Muse* to the 1855/1881 edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and the poems of Emily Dickinson composed through the 1860s. Primarily, we will consider the works of seven poets – Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672), Edward Taylor (1642-1729), Philip Freneau (1752-1832), Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784), Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), Walt Whitman (1819-1892), and Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). As time and interest allow, we may also consider a few representative poems by Native Americans, Joel Barlow, Lydia Sigourney, William Cullen Bryant, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Greenleaf Whittier, Frances Osgood, and others, as well as supplemental readings that help situate the poetry historically, culturally, and ideologically. But most class time will be devoted to the careful reading, presentation, and discussion of particular poems. The short analysis and term paper will allow each student to go into more detail about individual poems or poets than is normally possible in class.

Requirements

One short essay on an individual poem (4 pp)
Term paper on work of one poet, or a specific comparative study of two poets (11-13 pp); a paper prospectus and an annotated bibliography of 8-10 secondary sources related to this term paper will be due at earlier dates
Two class presentations on one poem (5-7 mins., both of which may be applied to either paper)
Take-Home Final examination (due on date of final exam -- 8 December)

Grades

The short essay will be worth 15% of the final grade; the annotated bibliography 5%, the term paper 45%, the final exam 15%, and class participation (including class presentations) 20%. Unusual cases (such as more than 3 unexcused absences) may force me to alter these percentages. Late papers will be graded down one letter grade per day.

NOTE on Compliance: This course description also abides by any/all relevant guidelines, agreements, and policies of the University of New Orleans; see, specifically, "UNO Policies on Academic Dishonesty, Attendance, and Students with Disabilities" (handout) and/or <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu> and/or <http://www.ods.uno.edu>. Also, as mandated by the UNO administration under the category of "Student Learning Outcomes," by the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. effectively analyze early American literature, especially American poetry from 1600 to 1865, as well as demonstrate an understanding poetic technique, formal usage, thematic and figurative language, irony, voice, allusion and other devices.
2. demonstrate a full understanding of the historical, cultural, and ideological contexts of these works, through oral and written presentations, of poems and other literary texts, being able to take into account a range of approaches to interpreting early American poetry and to apply those approaches to literary analysis in general.
3. develop strategies for research in literature, especially in American poetry, and apply those strategies as writers/scholars/critics.

**English 6001: Early American Poetry from Bradstreet to Dickinson
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La 365 280-6361**

Assignments, August 25 – October 20:

Aug. 25: Introduction.

Handout: **NAAL A**: “The Iroquois Creation Story,” 23-25; “Felix ,White Srs.’s Introduction to the Wakjankaga,” 102-40; William Bradford (1590-1657), from *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

Sep. 1: **NAAL A**: Anne Bradstreet (1612-72), poems, 208-15.

William Bradford (1590-1657), from *Of Plymouth Plantation*, Bk I, Chs. 9-10, Bk II, Ch. 11
131-39.

John Winthrop (1588-1649), from “A Model of Christian Charity,” 166-72, 175-77.

Roger Williams (1603-83), from *A Key into the Language of America*, 194-204.

8: **NAAL A**: Bradstreet, poems, 215-34: “To My Dear Children” (letter), 235-37.

Michael Wigglesworth (11631-1705), from *The Day of Doom*, 239-43.

Rec: Mary Rowlandson (1637-1711), from *A Narrative of the Captivity*, 257-59, 283-88.

15: **NAAL A**: Edward Taylor (1642-1729), poems, 290-98.

Cotton Mather (1663-1728), from *The Wonders of the Invisible World*, 328-33; from
Bonifacius: An Essay upon the Good, 356-61.

22: **NAAL A**: Taylor, poems, 298-307.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-58), “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” 430-41.

29: Phillis Wheatley (ca. 1753-84), *Complete Writings*, 1-17, 34-43.

NAAL A: Benjamin Franklin (1706-90), from *The Autobiography, Part I*, 490-98, 517-18;
Part II, 534-42; Rec: “The Way to Wealth,” 457-63.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), From *The Autobiography of TJ*, 661-73.

Rec.: Olaudah Equiano (ca. 1745-97), from *The Interesting Narrative*, Chs. VI-VII, 709-22.

Oct. 6: **Paper #1 due** (4 pp.)

Wheatley, *Complete Writings*, poems, 49-52, 59-77, 88-90, 196-98; Letters, 146-53.

From Wheatley, *Complete Writings*: Lucy Terry (ca. 1730-1821), 199-200; Jupiter Hammon
(1711-ca.1806), 201-11.

NAAL A: Annis Boudinot Stockton (1736-1801), poems, 725-27.

Sarah Wentworth Morton (1759-1846), poems, 728-30.

13: **NAAL A**: Philip Freneau (1752-1832), poems, 756-62

Chief Logan (ca. 1725-80), from Jefferson, “Chief Logan’s Speech,” 449-50; Red Jacket (ca
1758-1830), “Reply to the Missionary Jacob Cram,” 451-53.

Handout: Joel Barlow (1754-1812), “The Hasty Pudding”

20: Edgar Allan Poe (1809-49), *The Complete Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe*, 25-45, 59-77.

NAAL B: Ralph Waldo Emerson, from *Nature*, Introduction & Ch. I, 214-17.

William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), poems, 123-26.

Lydia Howard Huntley Sigourney (1791-1865), poems, 108-17.

NAAL A: *Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume A: Beginnings to 1820* (8th Edition)

NAAL B: *Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume B: 1820 to 1865* (8th Edition)

This schedule is subject to change.

Assignments, October 27 – December 8:

Oct. 27: **Term Paper Prospectus due** (1 p.)

Poe, *The Complete Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe*, 78-98, 106-121.

NAAL B: Poe, “The Philosophy of Composition,” 719-27; from “The Poetic Principle,” 728-29.

Handout: Frances Sargent Osgood (1811-50), poems.

Nov. 3: **NAAL B:** Walt Whitman (1819-92), poems, 1329; “Song of Myself,” 1330-74.

Whitman, Letter to Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1409-16.

Emerson, “The Poet,” 295-300, 306-10; poems, 341-44; Letter to Walt Whitman, 348.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82), poems, 599-602, 606-07.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92), “The Hunters of Men,” 609-10.

10: **NAAL B:** Whitman, poems, 1376-79, 1382-92; 1394-1401; from *Democratic Vistas*, 1420-24.

Herman Melville (1819-91), poems, 1583-86.

17: **Annotated Bibliography due** (8-10 sources)

Emily Dickinson (1830-86), *Final Harvest*, 22-37, 47-56, 67-74, 101-25,

NAAL B: Dickinson, Letters to Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1703-04.

24: Dickinson, *Final Harvest*, 161-66, 171-80, 187-92, 215-22, 229-39.

NAAL B: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, poems, 1645-50.

Dec. 1: **Term Paper due** (11-13 pp., typed, double-spaced + Works Cited)

Dickinson, *Final Harvest*, 248-53, 263-68, 290-97, 306-10, 314-21.

8: Final Exam due

NAAL B: *Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume B: 1820 to 1865* (8th Edition)

This schedule is subject to change.