

**ENGLISH 3061**  
**American Literature to 1865**

**Dr. Jason Haslam**

**Fall 2012**

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**Office: McCain 1193; Fall Office Hours: Tue, 2:30-4:30**

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**Course Description:**

This course will focus on American literature ranging from the colonial period, to the Revolution, through to the end of the Civil War. Among the authors we will consider are Emily Dickinson, Frederick Douglass, Benjamin Franklin, Harriet Jacobs, Edgar Allan Poe, Henry David Thoreau, and Phillis Wheatley. In part, this course will examine the ways in which a wide variety of literary forms helped in attempts to form certain conceptions of “America” and to silence or erase others. Therefore, in addition to surveying the major literary works and movements of this time (including, for example, transcendentalism, sentimentalism, and the gothic), much of the course will necessarily revolve around specific historical events and social debates, including slavery, the abolitionist movement, the civil war, the nascent feminist movement, and a variety of other issues.

**Required Texts**

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Shorter 7th ed. Vol. 1.  
 Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Dover Thrift ed.

**Course Requirements**

Assignments

Midterm: 20% **In-class October 24**

Essay, (1800-2100 words; approx. 6-7 pages, double spaced): 40% **Due November 21**

Final exam: 35% TBA (during University exam period).

Attendance and Participation: 5%

Assignment Descriptions

**Midterm:** The midterm will consist of close readings and interpretations of some short passages chosen from the works studied.

**Essay:** In the essay, you will analyse two of the primary texts we have studied during the term. You will construct a cohesive argument about the texts; you may use critical/theoretical texts to help to support your argument. Topics will be handed out in class. Proper research techniques will be discussed in class. Proper MLA-style documentation is required for the essay, and all sources used must be properly cited.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of two sections. The first section will follow the format of the midterm, but passages will be from works covered after the midterm. The second section will consist of an essay in which you will have to cover material from both before and after the midterm.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The final exam will be held during the official university examination period. Students **must** keep their schedules clear during those dates. Travel plans will **not** be accepted as an excuse for missing the exam.

**Attendance and Participation:** Each of these will be worth half of the 5%. The attendance mark will be based on attending each class and signing the sign-in sheets (two per class for evening classes). The participation mark will be based on activity in class discussions and group work, and on the level of engagement with the text that is demonstrated (i.e. you must demonstrate that you have read *and* thought seriously about the text before class).

### **Other Course and University Policies:**

#### Late Penalties

All take-home assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated, or at the time and date indicated. Late take-home assignments will be docked 5% for each 24 hours that they are late. For example, a paper due at 12:00 pm on Day 1 will drop 5% starting at 12:01 pm on Day 1, another 5% starting at 12:01 pm on Day 2, etc. In-class assignments must be written in class at the time and date indicated. Only properly documented medical problems or other documented severe circumstances which are out of your control will be accepted as excuses for late or missed assignments.

#### Plagiarism

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the [academicintegrity.dal.ca](http://academicintegrity.dal.ca) website (also see the statement attached at the end of this syllabus). Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.

### AASC Statement on Accessibility

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

### **Readings and Class Schedule:**

Note: you are expected to do the reading before class, and be prepared to discuss that material in class. The reading for this class is relatively light, but note which are the longer works and read ahead.

Sept	12	Introduction
	19	John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity"; Cotton Mather, from <i>The Wonders of the Invisible World</i> ; Roger Williams, Letter to the Town of Providence ( <a href="http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendI_religions6.html">http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendI_religions6.html</a> ) Mary Rowlandson, <i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson</i> ; The Iroquois Creation Story
	26	Benjamin Franklin, from <i>The Autobiography</i> ; Thomas Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence" Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To S. M., a Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works," "To His Excellency General Washington."
October	03	Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle" Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self Reliance"
	10	Emerson, "Nature." Henry David Thoreau, <i>Walden</i>
	17	Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Rappaccini's Daughter." Edgar Allan Poe, "Ligeia"

- 24 **MIDTERM** (1<sup>st</sup> half of class)  
Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government”
- 31 Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener.”  
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.
- November 07 Douglass, continued  
Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- 14 Jacobs, continued
- 21 Dickinson, 519 “This is my letter to the World,” 479 “Because I could not  
stop for Death--,” 613 “They shut me up in Prose--” (for 613, go to  
<http://www.emilydickinson.org/classroom/spring98/TheyShut.htm>)  
Walt Whitman, “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,” “When Lilacs Last  
in the Dooryard Bloom’d.” **ESSAY DUE**
- 28 Abraham Lincoln, Address Delivered at the Dedication of the Cemetery at  
Gettysburg, November 19, 1863; Review

### Grading Scale

Mark Range (/100)	Grade	Range	Grade
90-100	A+	67-69	C+
85-89	A	63-66	C
80-84	A-	60-62	C-
77-79	B+	57-59	D+
73-76	B	53-56	D
70-72	B-	50-52	D-
		0-49	F

Please note: the D- and D+ grades are used for information purposes only; the University transcript does not include D- or D+ grades, so any final grade in the D range will appear as a simple “D”.

# Sample Syllabus STATEMENT

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (*The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999*). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

## **What does academic integrity mean?**

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people's work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student's responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met.

## **How can you achieve academic integrity?**

We must all work together to prevent academic dishonesty because it is unfair to honest students. The following are some ways that you can achieve academic integrity; some may not be applicable in all circumstances.

- make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (see <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/Policies/>)
- do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- do not falsify data or lab results

Be sure not to **plagiarize**, intentionally or unintentionally, for example...

- clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work. This includes computer codes/ programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images
- do not use the work of another from the Internet or any other source and submit it as your own
- when you use the ideas of other people (paraphrasing), make sure to acknowledge the source
- do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor (These examples should be considered only as a guide and not an exhaustive list.)

## **Where can you turn for help?**

If you are ever unsure about any aspect of your academic work, contact me (or the TA):

- Academic Integrity website (see <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>) - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing
- Writing Centre (see <http://writingcentre.dal.ca/>) - Assistance with learning to write academic documents, reviewing papers for discipline-specific writing standards, organization, argument, transitions, writing styles and citations
- Dalhousie Libraries (see <http://www.library.dal.ca/>) - Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (see <http://www.dsu.ca/services/advocacy>) - Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures.
- Senate Office ([www.senate.dal.ca](http://www.senate.dal.ca)) - List of Academic Integrity Officers, discipline flowchart, Senate Discipline Committee

[www.dal.ca](http://www.dal.ca)

03/08/2011

## **What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?**

As your instructor, I am required to report every suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Faculty Discipline Flow Chart (see

[http://senate.dal.ca/Files/AIO\\_/AcademicDisciplineProcess\\_Flowchart\\_updated\\_July\\_2011.pdf](http://senate.dal.ca/Files/AIO_/AcademicDisciplineProcess_Flowchart_updated_July_2011.pdf)) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors
- Based on the evidence provided, the AIO decides if there is evidence to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved
- If you are found guilty of an offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning, to failure of the assignment or failure of the class, to expulsion from the University. Penalties may also include a notation on your transcript that indicates that you have committed an academic offence.