

## ENGL 5310-110 Studies in American Literature

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### **Office Hours:**

Available by appointment. Appointments can be made over email.

### **Mode of instruction and course access:**

This course is a 100% online course, which means that all required interactions will occur in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

### **911 Cellular:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **Course Description:**

Focuses on restricted periods in American literary history. Examples include colonial American literature, the American Renaissance, American literary naturalism, post-World War II American literature, and minority literature in America. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

This specific section will focus on American Transcendentalism and Romanticism with particular examination of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, and Hawthorne.

*Instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time*

## Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- identify the traits of American Transcendentalism and Romanticism
- interpret a text using the traits of American Transcendentalism and Romanticism
- differentiate between different examples of American Transcendentalism and Romanticism
- critique scholarly arguments related to traits of American Transcendentalism and Romanticism
- author a scholarly analysis that connects to American Transcendentalism and Romanticism

## Required Texts:

- *The Scarlet Letter and Other Writings*, second edition, Leland S. Person, editor, second edition, Norton Critical Edition, 9780393264890
- Emerson's Prose and Poetry, Joel Porte and Sandra Morris, editors, Norton Critical Edition, 9780393967920
- *Walden and Civil Disobedience and Other Writings*, third edition, William Rossi, editor, Norton Critical Edition, 9780393930900
- *The Selected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe*, G. R. Thompson, editor, Norton Critical Edition, 9780393972856

## Course Requirements:

This course will have two requirements: class presentations and a term paper.

Class presentations: students will be responsible for one text for every class session. Students will introduce their text to the class and identify some of the aspects of that text worth detailed analysis. In some cases, students will also want to introduce a piece of secondary criticism of their text for that week. These assignments will change a little when the class meets online. Students will need to attend the face-to-face class before an online session to know the particulars of an online class. Class presentations will earn a high-pass, pass, or no-pass for each presentation. An average of the presentations will constitute 60% of the final grade.

Term Paper: students will write one thirty-page, research-based term paper toward the end of the semester. The paper will need to defend an argument that relates to some aspect of American Romanticism (which, here, I mean to include Transcendentalism) and that has some current relevancy to the ways Romanticism and Romantic texts are presently discussed. The topic of the paper must utilize the ideas and texts of one or more of the four authors considered in this class, but some other author can be the focus of the essay. More specifics for this assignment will be distributed before spring break. The term paper will earn either a high-pass, pass, or no-pass. This grade will constitute 40% of the final grade.

## Grading Rubric

Final Grades will be calculated a little differently in this class. To earn a high-pass, or an A, students will need to earn a high-pass on their term paper and a high-pass on 60% or more of their presentations. To earn a pass, or a B, students will need to earn at least a pass on their term paper and a pass or higher on at least 60% presentations. Students that fail to earn a pass on their term paper or that fail to score at least a pass on at least 60% of their presentations will earn a C or lower in the class (the exact grade will depend on the amount of work in the class completed and submitted on time).

## Course Outline and Calendar

- 1/17 Introductions; MLA; databases; two articles
- 1/24 Transcendentalism, Romanticism, and *Nature*

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- 1/31 Essays (“The American Scholar”; “Divinity School Address”; “Self-Reliance”; “The Poet”; “Experience”)
- 2/7 Emerson’s Poems
- 2/14 online discussion of Emerson Criticism
- 2/21 online discussion of Thoreau, *Walden*
- 2/28 online discussion of Criticism on *Walden*
- 3/7 “Civil Disobedience” and “Slavery in Massachusetts” and Criticism on...
  
- 3/21 Poe’s Poems
- 3/28 online discussion of Poe’s Tales
- 4/4 Poe Criticism and Contexts
- 4/11 *The Scarlet Letter*
- 4/18 Hawthorne’s other writings
- 4/25 Hawthorne Criticism
- 5/2 Papers due
- 5/9 Presentations and wrap up

Please see the calendar under the Syllabus tab in CANVAS for an outline and calendar of our course. Students should regularly check this calendar some due dates may change. Any change to the schedule will be posted at least three days before the new due date. Failure to notice a change will not be a reason to miss an assignment or to submit an assignment late.

### **Posting of Grades**

Students will receive their presentation grades through a weekly email. The term paper will be returned with a grade during the last class session. The final grade will be posted with the university. Students will need to keep a record of their grades.

### **Late Work**

This course does not accept late work. A zero will be recorded for any assignment that is missed. Should a student know a class will be missed, that student can send an email with an attachment of the work due for that particular day. Emails must arrive at or before 2:29pm on the day the class meets to be accepted. Late emails will be ignored.

### **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\_Request\_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; drops are the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide on the University Calendar a deadline for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. Attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Students that find themselves facing an unexpected, life altering circumstance before the drop deadline published on the academic calendar should drop the course. Should a student encounter an unexpected, life altering circumstance after the drop deadline, that student may be eligible for an incomplete so long as all work due before the circumstance has been submitted and the student has a reasonable chance to pass

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the course should the work be completed as soon as the circumstance resolves itself. No student should expect to receive an incomplete.

### **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity.

### **The University Writing Center**

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Ideally, by providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, the tutors can highlight the ways in which a text will be read and interpreted, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process.

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

### **University Library**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

### **Program Assessment**

The English program uses student assignments to determine if they are meeting departmental learning outcomes. To that end, some of the projects you complete for this course may be used for programmatic assessment. An effort is made to remove all identifying markers from any artifact used in this manner.

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Your identity should, therefore, be protected. Still, please let your instructor know by the end of the first week if you do not want your work used in this way. Contact your instructor if you have any questions or concerns about this process.

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](#), please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](#), please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Copyright Notice.**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author. Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author (instructor). Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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