

Spring 2013
Class Meeting Time: 12N-13:15pm

English 162

American Literature 1830-1865
Classroom: SH 413

Professor Karen English
Office: FO 221
Phone: 924-4506

Email: Karen.English@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: M-Th 10:30-11:30am
and by appt.

Required Texts: You are responsible for having these EXACT editions. All reading assignments will be discussed in painstaking detail, so you are required bring assigned text(s) to every class.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Essays*. Harvard, 1979. ISBN9780674267206
Dickinson, Emily. *Poems, Reading Edition*. Harvard, 1998/9. ISBN9780674018242
Melville, Herman. *Melville's Short Novels*. Norton Critical Edition, 2002. ISBN9780393976410
Poe, Edgar A. *Selected Poetry and Tales*. Broadview, 2012. ISBN 9781558410468.
Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden and Civil Disobedience*. Norton Critical Edition, 2008.
ISBN9780393930900
Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. Norton Critical Edition. 2002. ISBN9780393974966

My web page url: www.sjsu.edu/people/karen.english/ Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and IMPORTANT author urls may be found on my faculty web page also accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU.

Course Description: Through lecture, discussion, and writing, this course explores the American Romantic movement as it was expressed in poetry, nonfiction prose, and fiction.

Student Learning Objectives: In the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will demonstrate the ability to: (1) read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric; (2) show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American and World Literature; (3) write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject; (4) develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively; and (5) articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes. At her discretion, the instructor will give quizzes. **Note:** Wireless devices will not be used in the classroom except by instructor permission.

Dropping and Adding Classes: The last day to drop a class without a W grade is Monday, February 4. The last day for adding classes without a late fee, for registering late, or for requesting grade options is Monday, February 11. Information regarding the university policy on late drops can be found on the Academic Advising website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/>.

Grades: The final grade in this course will be determined as follows: Class Work (includes active participation and journal/essay assignments): 40%; Longer Analytical Papers: 20% each. Final examination: 20%.

Journal Essays: These journals will be short essays with explicit instructions with specific due dates. Do not confuse these journal assignments with personal response essays.

Undergraduates will complete **six 300-350 word** journals; graduate students will complete **six 600-700 word** journals. **Late journals are not accepted under any circumstance.** Journal assignments satisfy **SLOs 2, 3, 5.**

Longer Analytical Papers: These critical essays will use MLA format (7th edition) for parenthetical documentation and include a works cited sheet. Topics will be related to the authors, texts, and ideas discussed in the class. Both papers are literary analyses of specific works, not creative writing projects. Late papers are accepted **only** at the instructor's discretion and may be penalized for lateness. Undergraduate students will write **two 1200 word** papers; graduate students will write **two 1800 word** papers.

Remember: I am always glad to read a rough draft and comment on it before the due date! Papers satisfy SLOs 2, 3, 4, 5.

Grading Statement: The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU [Catalog](#) ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B=above average; C= average; D=below average; F=failure. In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

English Department Grading Policies: In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. Grades issued will represent a full range of student performance and will adhere to the following SJSU academic standards of assessment:

The "A" essay will be well organized and well developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively and construct sentences distinguished by syntactic complexity and variety. Such essays will be essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.

The "B" essay will demonstrate competence in the same categories as the "A" essay. The chief difference is that the "B" essay will show some specific slight weaknesses in one of those categories. It may slight one of the assigned tasks, show less facility of expression, or contain some minor grammatical, mechanical, or usage flaws.

The "C" essay will complete all tasks set by the assignment, but show weakness in fundamentals (usually development), with barely enough specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. The sentence construction may be less mature, and the use of language less effective and correct than the "B" essay.

The "D" essay will neglect one of the assigned tasks and be noticeably superficial in its treatment of the assignment--that is, too simplistic or short. The essay may reveal some problems in development, with insufficient specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. It will contain grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

The "F" essay will demonstrate a striking underdevelopment of ideas and insufficient or unfocused organization. It will contain serious grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload: Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

SJSU Academic Integrity Policy: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.htm>. The SJSU rules against plagiarism are set forth in the SJSU Catalog, which defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes, but is not limited to: (1) the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. It is the role and obligation of each student to know the rules that preserve academic integrity and abide by them at all times. This includes learning and following the particular rules associated with specific classes, exams, and/or course assignments. Ignorance of these rules is not a defense to the charge of violating the Academic Integrity Policy.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

SJSU Writing Center: The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC): The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

Peer Mentor Center: The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering "roadside assistance" to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/asc/services/#peer>.

Student Technology Resources: Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Class Schedule: The following schedule of readings and written assignments is subject to change. While we may not discuss every assigned reading, students are responsible for the content of all assignments on quizzes and exams. **Always bring your textbook to class.** Reading assignments satisfy SLOs 1, 2, 5.

(With the exception of the Kazin introduction to the Emerson volume which I find obnoxious, I recommend that you read the introductions to all the other volumes. We will be exploring specific secondary critical documents in writing assignments.)

- 1/24 Intro to Romanticism; "Emerson" by Russell Goodman at plato.stanford.edu/entries/emerson/
- 1/29 Emerson "Self-Reliance" 25-51
- 1/31 Emerson "The Over-Soul" 157-175
- 2/5 Emerson "Experience" 243-267
- 2/7 Emerson "Politics" 333-347 and "Nominalist and Realist" 349-363
- 2/12 Emerson's essay on "Thoreau" in Norton, 394-409; **Journal #1/Emerson due.** SLOs 2, 3, 5
- 2/14 Thoreau "Civil Disobedience" 227-246
- 2/19 Thoreau *Walden* 1-58; "The Journal and *Walden*" 313-318
- 2/21 Thoreau *Walden* 58-106
- 2/26 Thoreau *Walden* 107-161
- 2/28 Thoreau *Walden* 161-224
- 3/5 Emerson's essay "The Poet" in Belknap/Harvard, 219-242, Whitman, Letter to Emerson in Norton, 636-646; **Journal #2/Thoreau due.** SLOs 2, 3, 5
- 3/7 "Preface" 1855 -*Leaves of Grass* 616-636; "Live Oak, with Moss" 752-756; "Trickle Drops" 107
- 3/12 Whitman *Song of Myself* (1855) 662-685
- 3/14 Whitman *Song of Myself* (1855) 685-710
- 3/19 Whitman *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd* 276-283; "Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night" 255-6; "A March in the Ranks Hard-Prest, and the Road Unknown" 256-7; "A Sight in Camp in the Daybreak" 257
- 3/21 "The Sleeper" 55-6; "Dreamland" 59-60; "Annabel Lee" 72-3; Poe "The Philosophy of Composition" 502-513; **Journal #3/Whitman due.** SLOs 2, 3, 5
- 3/22-4/1 **SPRING BREAK**
- 4/2 Poe "MS. Found in a Bottle" 89-100; from a "Review" of Hawthorne's *Twice-Told Tales* 525-527; **Paper #1 due in class.**
- 4/2 Poe "Berenice" 114-122; "The Black Cat" 316-325
- 4/4 Poe "William Wilson" 206-225; "Philosophy of Furniture" 234-240

- 4/9 Poe "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" 256-88
- 4/11 Emerson's essay in Norton "The Transcendentalist" 185-198, Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener" 3-34; **Journal #4/Poe due. SLOs 2, 3, 5**
- 4/16 Melville *Benito Cereno* 35-65
- 4/18 Melville *Benito Cereno* 66-102
- 4/23 Melville *Billy Budd* 103-135
- 4/25 Melville *Billy Budd* 136-170; **Journal #5/Melville due. SLOs 2, 3, 5**
- 4/30 Dickinson poems on nature: 21, 23, 31, 32, 45, 92, 122, 171, 177, 204, 207, 219, 236, 256, 310, 347, 359, 402, 457, 460 (NOTE: Franklin reordered and renumbered all of Dickinson's poems in 1998, so make sure if you risk using a different edition, it uses the new numbering system).
- 5/2 Dickinson poems on womanhood: 5, 56, 121, 168, 185, 188, 194, 205, 218, 219, 221, 225, 228, 232, 248, 266, 267, 269, 275, 279, 280, 356, 409, 426, 454
- 5/7 Dickinson poems on the "agon"(pain, suffering, death, despair, ecstasy): 9, 28, 39, 59, 81, 93, 109, 112, 181, 257, 312, 312, 320, 336, 372, 373, 423, 437, 473, 485, 499; Civil War poems: 233, 414, 545, 820, 1212, 1789
- 5/9 Dickinson poems on poetry: 21, 45, 80, 92, 203, 242, 253, 260, 278, 282, 348, 358, 380, 402, 432, 436, 445, 446, 475, 518, 524, 545, 616, 629. **Journal #6/Dickinson due. SLOs 2, 3, 5**
- 5/16 **Paper 2 due in FO 221 by 12N. SLOs 2, 3, 4, 5**