**Early American Literature**

**Winter 2014: October 2, 2014 – January 9, 2015**

**Class Meetings on Mondays: 15:50-17:20, Room 104**

**Professor: Barbara Ladd**

**Office: 219A; Office Hours—Mondays 13:00 – 14:00, and by appointment on other days of the week.**

**Email:** [**Barbara.ladd@emory.edu**](mailto:Barbara.ladd@emory.edu)

**Description**: See the description in the course catalog. Students should come away from this course with knowledge and a good understanding of American literature and culture between Contact (in the 15th century) and the end of the Civil War (1865) as well as a foundation for further study in the field.

**Readings**: All readings—with the exception of full-length novels and a short piece by Whitman on Poe—are available in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 8th edition. The Table of Contents will be made available to you, along with guidance in selecting online sources.

**Requirements**: 3 short (400-500-word) essays (25% each for all but single-subject students, whose short essays count as 15% each); one presentation (10 minutes; 15%); preparation and participation in discussion and in-class short writing assignments (10%); for single-subject students: a 2500-word essay (30%). Students must attend at least 70% of all class meetings in order to receive credit for the course.

**Syllabus**

Week:

1 (Wednesday Oct. 1): No class this week; I will be available to meet with individual students on Thursday, Oct. 2nd, from 13:00 to 14:00, and by appointment at other times—email me to schedule the appointment.

2 (Monday, October 6): Introduction—Contact and Voices of Colonial America.  “Stories of the Creation of the World”; Christopher Columbus, “from Letter to Luis de Santangel Regarding the First Voyage” (1493); John Smith, “from The General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles” (1612); Anne Bradstreet, “The Prologue” (1650), “Before the Birth of One of Her Children” (1678), “To My Dear and Loving Husband” (1678); Mary Rowlandson, “A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson” (1682); Edward Taylor, “Meditation 8 (First Series)” (1684) and “Huswifery” (n.a.); Cotton Mather, “from *The Wonders of the Invisible World*” (1693); Jonathan Edwards, “Personal Narrative” (after 1739) and “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (1741).

3 (Monday, October 13): Independence—Thomas Paine, “From *Common Sense*” (1776); Benjamin Franklin, “The Way to Wealth” (1757); “Information to Those Who Would Remove to America” (1784) and “Concerning the Savages of North America” (1784); Thomas Jefferson, “Declaration of Independence” (1776, 1821) and “Notes on the State of Virginia” (1787).

4 (Monday, October 20): Early Republic--Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” (1819) and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (1820). First Essay Due.

5 (Monday, October 27):  American Romanticism and Transcendentalism-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature” (1836); “Native Americans: Removal and Resistance” ( individual texts to be specified)

6 (Monday, November 3): Edgar Allan Poe, “William Wilson, A Tale” (1839), “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839), “The Raven” (1845); and “The Philosophy of Composition” (1846). Walt Whitman, “Edgar Poe’s Significance,” from *Specimen Days* (text to be provided)

7 (Monday, November 10): Slavery and Abolition-- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life* (1845) and “from *My Bondage and My* *Freedom”* (1855); Harriet Beecher Stowe, from *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1850); Harriet Jacobs, from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1858)

8  (Monday, November 17): American Romanticism Continued-- Hawthorne, *Scarlet Letter* (1850); Herman Melville, “Hawthorne and His Mosses” (1850). Second Essay Due.

9 (Monday, November 24):  Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851) (approximately 100 pages to be assigned for those who cannot read the novel in its entirety)

10 (Monday, December  1): Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851) (approximately 100 pages to be assigned for those who cannot read the novel in its entirety)

11 (Monday, Dec 8): Thoreau, *Walden* (1854) (approximately 100 pages assigned for those who cannot read the book in its entirety)

12 (Monday, December 15): Whitman, “Song of Myself” (1855 and later ed.); Emily Dickinson, selections (first published versions and 20th century edited versions). Third Essay Due.

Due Date to be announced:  From single-subject students: Final Essay of 2500 words, excluding notes and bibliography, due (via email attachment to my Emory University address).