Course Objectives
1. To foster an appreciation for American literature written prior to 1865.
2. To develop one’s skills as a literary critic.

Textbooks
You are welcome to buy your textbooks from the University Bookstore or from Amazon or any of the other discount booksellers. To that end, I am including the ISBN numbers.
Selections from Jonathan Edwards, Ben Franklin, etc. will be provided.

Course Calendar

Week of August 25-29
M Introduction to the course and to colonial American literature
W Edwards: “Sarah Pierrepont,” “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (both to be provided). Reading Quiz # 1—covering Edwards, syllabus, & Monday’s lecture
F Edwards: “Personal Narrative.” Reading Quiz # 2.

Week of September 1-5
M Labor Day, no class
W Edwards: “Letter to the Trustees of the College of New Jersey” (to be provided). Reading Quiz # 3.
F Edwards continued.

Week of September 8-12
M Franklin: Reading Quiz # 4 over “From the Autobiography” (to be provided).
W Franklin: Reading Quiz # 5 over “Letter to Thomas Paine” (to be provided) & “Letter to Ezra Stiles” (to be provided).
F Franklin continued.

Week of September 15-19
M Essay # I due. Topics to be announced.
W Poe: Reading Quiz # 6 over “The Cask of Amontillado” & “The Black Cat”
F Poe: Reading Quiz # 7 over “The Tell-Tale Heart” & “William Wilson”

Week of September 22-26
M Poe: Reading Quiz # 8 over “Ligeia,” “Berenice,” & “Morella.”
W Poe: Reading Quiz # 9 over “The Purloined Letter” & “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.”
F Poe: Reading Quiz # 10 over “The Fall of the House of Usher.”

Week of September 29-October 3
selections to be announced.
W Essay # II due. Topics to be announced.
F Fall Break (no class)

**Week of October 6-10**
M Hawthorne: Reading Quiz # 12 over “Young Goodman Brown” & “My Kinsman, Major Molineux.”
W Hawthorne: Reading Quiz # 13 over “Wakefield,” & “The Minister’s Black Veil.”
F Hawthorne continued.

**Week of October 13-17**
M Hawthorne: Reading Quiz # 14 over “The Maypole of Merry-Mount,” “The Birthmark,” & “Ethan Brand.”
W Hawthorne: Reading Quiz # 15 over “Rappaccini’s Daughter.”
F Hawthorne continued.

**Week of October 20-24**
M Hawthorne: Reading Quiz # 16 over The Scarlet Letter, “The Custom House” through Chapter 12.
W Hawthorne: Reading Quiz # 17 over The Scarlet Letter, Chapters 13-24.
F Faulkner Conference: no class

**Week of October 27-31**
M Essay # III due. Topics to be announced.
W Melville: Reading Quiz # 18 over Moby-Dick, Chapters 1-31.
F Melville: Reading Quiz # 19 over Moby-Dick, Chapters 32-57.

**Week of November 3-7**
M Melville: Reading Quiz # 20 over Moby-Dick, Chapters 58-96.
W Melville: Reading Quiz # 21 over Moby-Dick, Chapters 97-end.
F Melville continued.

**Week of November 10-14**
M Essay # IV due. Topics to be announced. Introduction to the Transcendentalists.
W Emerson: Reading Quiz # 22 over “Nature.”
F Emerson: Reading Quiz # 23 over “The American Scholar.”

**Week of November 17-21**
M Emerson: Reading Quiz # 24 over “The Divinity School Address” & “Self-Reliance.”
W Introduction to Thoreau.
F Thoreau: Reading Quiz # 25 over Walden, Chapters 1-9.

**Week of November 24-28**
M Thoreau: Reading Quiz # 26 over Walden, Chapters 10-18.
W Thanksgiving Holiday, no class
F Thanksgiving Holiday, no class

**Week of December 1-5**
M Thoreau: Reading Quiz # 27 over “Civil Disobedience.”
W Essay # V due. Topics to be announced.
F Review for Final Examination

**Week of December 8-12**
Thursday, December 11, 10:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M., Final Examination (an in-class, comprehensive examination)

**Grades**
Examinations Averaged Together (5) 50%
Final Examination 20%
Reading Quiz Average 30%
Total 100%

**Reading Quizzes**
We will have a ridiculous number of reading quizzes, twenty-seven, in fact. In lieu of make-up work, we will drop two of the grades, leaving twenty-five. All quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class hour; if a student arrives after the quiz has been given, he or she will not be permitted to take it. The questions will all be of the multiple-choice variety covering the day’s reading assignment and the previous day’s lecture. Generally there will be a total of ten questions per quiz. The goal here is not punitive but to reward students for staying caught up with the reading material and for reviewing the previous day’s notes. We all benefit if everyone is academically prepared each day.
Attendance
Please make a solid commitment to this course. Attendance is defined as attending the entire class.

Perfect attendance: 2 points added to the final course-grade average
1-4 absences: no effect upon the final grade average
5 absences: 2 points deducted from the final course-grade average
6 absences: 2 more points deducted from the final course-grade average
7 absences: 2 more points deducted from the final course-grade average
8 or more absences: failure in the course. Regardless of the reason for the absences,* if a student misses eight or more class sessions (that’s over 20% of the class sessions), he or she will earn a failing grade in the course. Official withdrawals with a “W” must be made on or before October 14, 2008. No “W’s” will be assigned after that date. Note: departure immediately after our quiz still constitutes an absence.

*Note: An absence is an absence is an absence. All absences are equal. If a student is absent for reasons of illness or good health, anger or exceeding joy, a WKU sports event or WKU non-sports event, a job interview or a job dismissal, a family emergency or family celebration, he or she is still absent. I DO NOT EVER need to know the reason for the absence, nor do I need letters, notes, cards, or official explanations proclaiming that it is an “excused” absence. In this class there is no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. If your coach (tutor or boss) tells you that a particular occasion constitutes an “excused” absence, please remind your coach that he or she is not teaching this class. If you know that you are going to be out, plan accordingly. And if you know that you will miss more than four meetings, be prepared to give up some points and not whine about the loss. Or consider enrolling in a different class.

One more thing: This class begins on August 25, 2008. If you enroll after this date and miss any earlier meetings, you will have used up some of your absences. Repeat: an absence is an absence is an absence.

Participation
If a student is dozing or sleeping in class, he or she will be politely asked to leave and will be penalized with an absence. Your professor needs for each student to be mentally participating in our academic enterprise. The mere presence of one’s body does not constitute participation

Late Work
Yes, late work will be accepted—but with an appropriate grade penalty (3 points per calendar day for a maximum of 15 points). But for heaven’s sake, if a paper is due and one does not have it, he or she should not add insult to injury by not attending class. No one will embarrass or harass a person if work is late. Note: No late work will be accepted if it is not turned in prior to the next regularly scheduled grade. In other words, if Essay # II is late, it still must be turned in prior to the scheduled date for Essay # III. If one finds himself farther behind than this, he or she needs to drop the course.

Course Completion
In order to complete the course, all work must be turned in, whether it be submitted on time or late. Otherwise, the student will earn an “incomplete” (if only one item is missing) or a failing grade (if more than one item is missing).

Out-of-Class Essays
All out-of-class essays should be typed or computer generated. Length: around 750-1000 words in length plus title page and bibliography—if secondary sources are used. Think in terms of three or four double-spaced pages of text. Topics will be provided.

I prefer hard copies. However, if you are sending work to me by computer, make sure that it is in the form of an email “attachment,” not an email itself. Also, use Microsoft Word, NOT Word Perfect. Preferably use an “rtf” format.

Plagiarism
Penalty for one occurrence: failure in the assignment
Penalty for more than one occurrence: failure in the course

Speech Habits
Please don’t get wildly offended if your English professor gently corrects your speech. College students need to demonstrate linguistic competence both in their written expression and their oral expression. Reading well, writing well, and speaking well constitute the heart of education.

Emails
Good writing and good grammar are simply the result of good habits. Toward that end, I expect all
emails sent to me to be professionally written, i.e., grammatically correct with proper capitalization and spelling. This is not a course in text-messaging. Don’t go nuts if I reply to an ungrammatical email with instructions to rework it.

Disability Accommodations
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.