

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 68A, American Lit to 1865, Section 1, Spring 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karen English
Office Location:	FO 221
Telephone:	(408) (924-4506)
Email:	Karen.English@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW: 12-1pm; TR: 10:30-11:30am and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TR 13:30-14:45pm
Classroom:	BBC 128

CANVAS and Electronic Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through CANVAS (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course surveys American literatures from the beginnings to 1865. Through lectures and discussions, we will explore nonfiction prose, poetry, drama, and fiction of the colonial, revolutionary, national, and romantic periods of American literature. Students will learn to read, analyze, and write essays on a wide variety of texts.

English Department Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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.

68A Required Texts

Texts are available through Spartan bookstore and many other sources. Baym, Nina P. et al. *Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Vols. A & B. 8th ed. ISBNs 9780393934762 and 9780393934779

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Students are expected to read all assignments on the syllabus, turn in all written work on time, and attend classes. At her discretion, the instructor will give quizzes and, as indicated on syllabus, assign 5-6 short essays or worksheets. A midterm and final examination will also be given as scheduled in the syllabus.

Grading Policy

Tests (satisfy **SLOs 2, 3, 5**) will count 50%: the midterm 20% (March 18) and the final 30% (May 20 from 12:15-2:30pm). Class work counts 50%; class work includes approx. 6 written assignments and two oral presentations as well as daily participation (satisfies **SLOs 2, 3 & 5**). Daily participation is evaluated by a student's showing evidence of having completed the assigned reading and contributing voluntarily to class discussion.

Class work cannot be made up; however, credit for **one** written class assignment can be earned by attending a Center for Literary Arts event on campus, writing a typed review, and providing proof of attendance (program, ticket, etc). The review **must be directly** connected to the reading to material studied or discussed in the course.

There is no extra credit in this class. Emailed and late assignments are **not** accepted, unless indicated by CANVAS.

Grade Scale

A+ = 98 to 100%; A = 94-97%; A- = 90-93%; B+ = 87-89%; B = 84-86%; B- = 80-83%; C+ = 77-79%; C = 74-76%; C- = 70-73%; D+ = 67-69%; D = 64-66%; D- = 60-63%; F = 59% or lower

English Department Policies

English Department 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 in 68A 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

Classroom Protocol

Wireless electronic devices will be used in the classroom only with explicit instructor permission. Students are required to participate in reading and discussion activities as part of their participation in the course.

Recording policies

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that students obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for private, study purposes only. Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. Students may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](#) is

available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and restricts the sharing of course materials without explicit instructor permission.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

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) at <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. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

The following schedule of readings and written assignments is subject to change. Changes will be posted and announced through CANVAS. All assignments are from the Norton Anthology, volumes A & B, 8th edition. While we may not discuss every assigned reading, students are responsible for the content of all assignments on quizzes and exams. Reading assignments satisfy **SLOs 1, 2, 5**.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 26	"The Iroquois Creation Story" 21-25 (Cusick); Delaware/Lenape Legend of Hudson's Arrival 68-71 (Heckewelder)
1	Jan 28	<i>Stories about Wakjankaga</i> (Winnebago) 100-111, "Ikto Conquers Iya, the Eater" (Sioux) 111-114, "Coyote, Skunk, and the Prairie Dogs" (Navajo) 115-120
2	Feb 2	William Bradford 121 ff. Read Bio, <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> : from Book I: Chapters IV (124-7), IX (131-4), X (134-8); from Book II: Chapters XI (138-143), XII (144), XXIII (147-8), XXVIII (152-154); Illustration C4 <i>Elizabeth Clarke Freake and Baby Mary</i>
2	Feb 4	Anne Bradstreet 207; "To My Dear Children" 235-8; "The Author to Her Book" 225; "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" 225-6; Edward Taylor 289-90 "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children" 303-4 Class Assignment #1 due SLOs 2,3 & 4
3	Feb 9	Mary Rowlandson <i>Narrative</i> 255-272
3	Feb 11	Rowlandson 273-288
4	Feb 16	Benjamin Franklin 455-7; from <i>Autobiography</i> 481-509; Illustration C6 <i>Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky</i> (West)
4	Feb 18	Franklin 510-542 <i>Autobiography</i> (cont)
5	Feb 23	Philip Freneau 756-7; "The Indian Burying Ground" 758; To Sir Toby" 759-760; "On the Religion of Nature" 762; Mercy Otis Warren 731-2 "A Thought on the Inestimable Blessing of Reason . . ." Class Assignment #2 due SLOS 2, 3 & 4
5	Feb 25	Oludah Equiano from the <i>Interesting Narrative</i> 687-721; Illus. C7 <i>The Old Plantation</i>
6	Mar 2	Phillis Wheatley 762-4; "On Being Brought" 764; "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield" 767-8; "To S.M., A Young African Painter" 771-2
6	Mar 4	Royall Tyler 775- 90 <i>The Contrast</i>
7	Mar 9	Tyler (cont) 791-816
7	Mar 11	Hannah Webster Foster <i>The Coquette</i> 817-867 Oral Presentations
8	Mar 16	Webster 868-916 Oral Presentations and Classwork #3 due SLOS 2, 3, & 4

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	Mar 18	MIDTERM (SLOs: 2, 3, 5) Bring anthology, vol. A, large format examination booklet, and 2 pens
	Mar 23 & 25	SPRING BREAK
9	Mar 30	Washington Irving 26-27; "Rip Van Winkle" 29-41; Illustration C1: <i>The Return of Rip Van Winkle</i> John Quidor
9	Apr 1	Emerson 211-214, "The American Scholar" 243-256; "Brahma" 347
10	Apr 6	Margaret Fuller 740-743; from "The Great Lawsuit" 771-77; Illustration C6: <i>Shake Hands?</i> Lily Martin Spencer
10	Apr 8	Harriet Jacobs, from <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> 920-942 Classwork # 4 due SLOs 2, 3, & 4
11	Apr 13	William Apess 129-131, "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man" 154-159; Jane Johnston Schoolcraft 160-1; "Moowis, the Indian Coquette" and "The Little Spirit, or Boy-Man" 164-67; Emerson "Letter to Martin Van Buren" 366-369
11	Apr 15	Henry David Thoreau 961-964; "Sounds" from <i>Walden</i> 1039-1048; Illustration C7: <i>The Lackawanna Valley</i> George Inness
12	Apr 20	Thoreau "Resistance to Civil Government" 964-979; Frederick Douglass 1170-1174 from <i>My Freedom and My Bondage</i> 1240-1251
12	Apr 22	Edgar Poe 631-32; "Philosophy of Composition" 719-727; "The Raven" 637-640; "The Fall of the House of Usher" 654-667
13	Apr 27	Poe, "Annabel Lee" 643-644; "The Purloined Letter" 701-714
13	Apr 29	Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" 386-395; "Wakefield" 396-401
14	May 4	Hawthorne, "Rappacini's Daughter" 430-450 Classwork #5 due SLOs 2, 3, & 4
14	May 6	Herman Melville 1424-1427, from "Hawthorne and his Mosses" 1431-1432, "Bartleby, the Scrivener" 1483-1509
15	May 11	Walt Whitman 1310-1314; from "Preface" to <i>Leaves of Grass</i> 1316-1319; "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" 1383-1387; "A March in the Ranks Hard-Prest, and the Road Unknown" 1397-8
15	May 3	Emily Dickinson 1659-1663; poems numbered 112, 122, 225, 339, 269, 320, 236, 620, 446, 348, 519, 935, 1263, 1489 Oral Presentations and Classwork #6 SLOs 2, 3, 4
Final Exam		Wednesday, May 20, 12:15-2:30pm in classroom SLOs 2, 3, 5