

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
American Literature

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Texts

- Selected Poems by Anne Bradstreet
 - *To My Husband and Other Poems*, ed. Robert Hutchinson
Dover Thrift Editions, Dover Publications, 2011, 978-0486414089
- *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* by Benjamin Franklin
 - Dover Thrift Editions, Dover Publications, 1996, 978-0486290737
- *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine
 - Dover Thrift Editions, Dover Publications, 1997, 978-0486296029
- *Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper
 - Bantam Classics, Bantam, 1982, 978-0120000302
- *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville
 - *Democracy in America: The Complete and Unabridged Volumes I and II*
Bantam Classics, Bantam, 2000, 978-0553214642
- Selected Poems and Short Stories by Edgar Allan Poe
 - *The Essential Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*
Barnes & Noble Classics, Barnes & Noble, 2004, 978-1593080648
- *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville
 - *Billy Budd and Other Tales*, Signet Classics, Signet, 2009, 978-0451530813
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - Bantam Classics, Bantam, 1981, 978-0553210095
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
 - Bantam Classics, Bantam, 1981, 978-0553212266
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
 - *The Red Badge of Courage*, ed. Stanley Applebaum
Dover Thrift Editions, Dover Publications, 1990, 978-0486264653
- *Up from Slavery* by Booker T Washington
 - Dover Thrift Editions, Dover Publications, 1995, 978-0486287386
- Selected Poems by Walt Whitman
 - *Complete Poems of Walt Whitman* (Wordsworth Poetry Library)
Wordsworth Editions Ltd., rev. ed., 1998, 978-1853264337
- *The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce
 - Dover Thrift Editions, Dover Publications, 1993, 978-0486275420
- Selected Poems by Robert Frost
 - *The Road Not Taken and Other Poems*, ed. David Orr
Penguin Classics, 2015, 978-0143107392
- Selected Short Stories by Flannery O'Connor
 - *The Complete Stories*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1971, 978-0374515362
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
 - Simon & Schuster, 2012, 978-1451673319
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

- Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2002, 978-0060935467
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
 - Scribner, 1995, 978-0684801223

Course Description

A survey of the most important works of literature from the early settling of America to the modern day.

Please note: We suggest you review the proposed readings so that you are aware of the literature we are teaching and that your student's level of maturity matches it. In this course, a number of narratives deal with slavery and racial injustice. Please make sure you are comfortable with your student taking part in discussion regarding these topics.

Written Assignments

Author/Text Response Papers: 2 per semester. These are short papers (2-4 pages, or 500-1000 words) designed to get students thinking about and reacting to what they read. Students will choose from a range of supplied topics. 15% each (60% total)

Weekly Quizzes/Summaries: Students will complete a short answer/multiple choice quiz OR written summary (short description of the reading) each week to show that the student has finished and understood the reading. 15%

Midterm and Final Paper: Students will write two longer papers (6-8 pages, or 1500-2000 words), exploring in detail the literary techniques and meaning of a chosen work. The midterm paper is worth 10%; the final paper is worth 15%.

Example Schedule:

Week	Reading
1	Anne Bradstreet
2	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>
3	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>
4	<i>Common Sense</i>
5	<i>Common Sense</i>
6	<i>Democracy in America</i>
7	Response Paper #1 <i>Democracy in America</i>
8	<i>Democracy in America</i>
9	<i>Last of the Mohicans</i>
10	<i>Last of the Mohicans</i>
11	<i>Last of the Mohicans</i>
Thanksgiving Break	
12	Edgar Allen Poe
13	<i>Billy Budd</i>
14	Response Paper #2 <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>

Christmas Break

15 *The Scarlet Letter*

16 *The Scarlet Letter*

Exams Midterm

17 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

18 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

19 *The Red Badge of Courage*

20 *The Red Badge of Courage*

21 *Up from Slavery*

22 Response Paper #3 *Up from Slavery*

23 Walt Whitman

24 *Devil's Dictionary*

Spring Break

25 Robert Frost

26 Flannery O'Connor

27 *Fahrenheit 451*

28 Response Paper #4 *Fahrenheit 451*

29 *To Kill a Mockingbird*

30 *To Kill a Mockingbird*

31 *The Old Man and the Sea*

32 *The Old Man and the Sea*

Exams Final