



**EN 370 *The American Novel* (3)
Winter 2003**

Instructor: Dr. Tim Heath

Office Hours: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. T/TH
or by appointment

Class Times: 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. T/TH

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Location: Room 2

Required Texts

<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Hawthorne, Nathaniel	Oxford
<i>Moby Dick</i>	Melville, Herman	Bantam
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	James, Henry	Oxford
<i>Age of Innocence</i>	Wharton, Edith	Bantam
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	Salinger, J.D.	Little, Brown
<i>The Shipping News</i>	Proulx, Annie	Pocket Books

Note: the instructor will supplement the text with class handouts as needed.

Course Description

This course begins in the 1850s and extends to the present by tracing the rise of the distinctive literary voice that emerged in the novel of the United States. The two earliest novels examined, *The Scarlet Letter* and *Moby Dick*, belong to the period called the American Renaissance. This era saw America successfully define its literary identity independently from Europe and Britain, so this course studies representative samples of what has become a unique national literature. The continuities with and ruptures from other national expressions of the novel will form a key part of the course, but the overarching objective of English 370 lies with understanding and questioning the ideas of nationalism and national identity. We will also consider and interrogate the ways in which the novels examined represent race, gender, and class. All assigned reading for the class must be done in advance to ensure our discussions are lively and engaging.

Course Objectives

1. To examine in detail six key American novels;

2. To study and comprehend the cultural and historical elements that shape the American novel and its expression of American identity;
3. To develop the ability of students to read closely, analytically, and to write more effectively and clearly.

Course Schedule

January	14	Introduction
	16	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	21	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	23	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	28	<i>Moby Dick</i>
	30	<i>Moby Dick</i>
February	4	<i>Moby Dick</i>
	6	<i>Moby Dick</i>
	11	<i>Moby Dick</i> (Reading quiz)
	13	<i>Moby Dick</i> (Essay #1 due)
	18	Mid-term break
	20	Mid-term break
	25	Mid term exam
27	<i>Turn of the Screw</i>	
March	4	<i>Turn of the Screw</i>
	6	<i>Age of Innocence</i>
	11	<i>Age of Innocence</i>
	13	<i>Age of Innocence</i>
	18	<i>Age of Innocence</i>
	20	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>
	25	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>
	27	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i> (Reading quiz)
April	1	<i>Shipping News</i>
	3	<i>Shipping News</i> (Essay #2 due)
	8	<i>Shipping News</i>

Course Requirements

Reading quizzes	10% (two at 5% each)
Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Participation	10%*
Final exam	<u>30%</u>
	100

All assignments are due on the date given. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exams can be rescheduled only if students provide a letter explaining the reason for their absence.

I expect all readings to be done before class, and I look forward to lively discussion during class. The mark given for participation is based on evidence of thoughtful interaction with the assigned texts.

The academic policies in the Nazarene University College 2002 - 2003 catalogue apply to this course. Please review pages 36 to 43 in the catalogue for clarification on all matters of grading, attendance, academic dishonesty and so on.