

Dr. Buckman

**Humanities and Religious Studies 168:
Images of America**

Spring 2007

(AREA C3; Intensive Writing; Race and Ethnicity)

Office: 2020 Mendocino Hall

Office Phone: 278-5335

Office Hours: MW 11-12; TR 1:30-2:30
and by appointment

e-mail: abuckman@csus.edu

Required Texts:

Pohl, *Framing America* (FA)

Norton Anthology of American Literature (NA)

Other materials:

Saalink account for WebCT (additional class materials will be available on WebCT)

Catalog/Course Description and Expectations: Interdisciplinary survey of the major events, trends and figures in American history viewed through the lenses of American literature, visual arts, architecture and music. The arts in America are studied in relation to major ideas, significant personalities, and important events from the period of the early republic to the present. *Prerequisite: passing score on the WPE.*

Section Description: Using literature (both fiction and non-fiction) as well as other arts, artifacts, and disciplines, this course is meant to introduce students to the ways in which the arts reveal how America defines itself and has been defined. Students are expected to read, write, and think about what it means to be an American, what values and assumptions Americans may hold in common, and whether American experiences reflect the existence of a distinct national character.

Learning Goals:

Upon completion of HRS 168, successful students will demonstrate:

- ✓ The ability to recognize, explain and analyze American cultural traditions
- ✓ An understanding and appreciation of the diversity of American experiences
- ✓ The ability to compare and contrast various artistic expressions
- ✓ The ability to think critically and creatively about the relationships of artistic expressions and their historical and cultural contexts
- ✓ The ability to use information from multiple disciplines analytically
- ✓ The ability to write clear, correct and informed prose

Grading: 500 points total

- ✓ 2 tests (midterm and final)/100 points apiece = 200 points
- ✓ Writing assignments (totaling at least 5000 words):
 - Paper 1 (2-3 pp): 25 points
 - Paper 2 (4-6 pp): 50 points
 - Paper 3 (4-6 pp): 100 points
 - Paper 4 (4-6 pp): 100 points
- ✓ Participation: 25 points (positive contributions to course)

A = 450-500 points

B = 400-449 points

C = 350-399 points

D = 300-349 points

F= below 300 points

Class Policies and Procedures:

Professorial Quirks:

Tardiness is frowned upon, since it disrupts both students and professor; in addition, you are likely to miss important information for which you are responsible. Cell phones should be turned off. Students should not leave class early unless they have a compelling reason and should, if at all possible, notify the instructor prior to class and sit near the door. In addition, private discussions with the instructor should occur during office hours.

Due to the recent proliferation of inappropriate use of laptops in classes, no laptops will be permitted without prior permission from instructor.

Coursework:

Academic Integrity (The "P" word): Please turn in work that is solely your own. Appropriate credit must be given to the work of other authors used; this includes the proper use of paraphrasing and quoting as well as citation within and at the end of the paper. If you are unsure about what this means, please come and speak with me. Plagiarism has serious consequences and will result in *failure of the assignment*; other possible consequences include *failure of the course, and/or expulsion from the college*. **It is not an option** -- no rewrites will be allowed.

Formatting of Essays: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, and have 1" margins. The font and its size should be normal, generally Courier or Times New Roman 10 or 12 if you are using a word processor. Please staple your essays. Don't bother with plastic or cardboard covers. At the top of the first page, single-spaced, include a descriptive title for your paper in addition to tagging information (your name/the date/essay #). When you turn something in to an instructor, you should always keep a copy for yourself -- just in case. Following these guidelines can prevent A LOT of stress. *Any papers turned in to the HRS office should have my name on it as well as your own. Do NOT slip papers under my door, since they may be lost or damaged.*

Participation:

This class depends upon the full engagement of students with the material and the class itself. Students should participate in discussions on a regular and informed basis. Participation depends on positive contributions to class meetings and a preparation of a number of written study responses or discussion questions. *Simply being in attendance does not qualify as participating in the class*. You CAN receive a failing participation grade even if you attend every class. Disruptive behavior – such as coming to class late, interrupting other students or the professor, reading in class, attending to a cell phone, or talking to other students while the professor or other students are talking -- works against you in your participation grade. This is a classroom that emphasizes mutual respect and such behaviors do not reflect respect.

Attendance:

Absences affect your ability to participate and turn in assignments. There will be assignments completed and/or assigned during class as well as other opportunities for participation. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to get notes from a classmate and any assignments that you missed. Peers should be your first resource for getting missed information – be sure to make the acquaintance of at least one person in the class. Quizzes and assignments may not be made up.

Due Dates:

Tests:

Tests are scheduled as indicated on the class calendar. Make-ups are not permitted unless a compelling and verifiable emergency interferes – *this does not include family vacations*. Make-

ups are given at the convenience of the test giver, generally the testing center. Quizzes and assignments may not be made up.

Assignments:

Work assigned for completion outside of class must be turned in at the beginning of the class in which it is due.

Schedule of Readings (may change at discretion of instructor)

NB: unless otherwise stated, videos will be watched in class on day scheduled; readings are due on date scheduled.

1/29-1/31 Week 1: *First Encounters*

Introduction to class; opening remarks

Early encounters: FA: 15-16, 22-41

NA: the Iroquois Creation Story; WebCT: The Acoma Creation Story (sum)

2/5-2/7 Week 2: *Feeling Colonial*

FA: 54-66, 69-72

NA: Wm Bradford: *Of Plymouth Plantation* (Chapter IX; The Mayflower Compact);

Winthrop: "A Model of Christian Charity"

2/12-2/14 Week 3: *Colonial America, cont.*

NA: Rowlandson, "A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration..."; Jonathon Edwards, "Personal Narrative"; Franklin, "The Way to Wealth"; de Crevecoeur, "What Is An American?"

I will not be in class Wednesday, 2/14/07 – attending SW/TX PCA/ACA conference

2/19-2/21 Week 4: *The Early Republic*

FA: 74-87, 93-96, 104-111

NA: Jefferson, "from The Declaration of Independence"; Equiano, "from the Interesting Narrative..."; Wheatley, "On Being Brought..."

Paper 1 due at beginning of class Wednesday

2/26-2/28 Week 5: *Transcendental America and the Nation as Landscape*

FA: 112-128, 134-143, 146-150

NA: Emerson, "Self-Reliance," "Nature"

3/5-3/7 Week 6: *The Romantic Tradition*

NA: Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"; Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"

3/12-3/14 Week 7: *Let's Talk about Writing* and midterm

3/19-3/21 Week 8: *Slavery and the Civil War*

FA: 197-211

NA: Stowe, from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; Douglass, from *Narrative of the Life...*; Jacobs, "Incidents in the Life..."

Paper 2 due in class Wednesday

3/26-3/28 Week 9: **Spring Break**

4/2-4/4 Week 10: *Westward Movement*

FA: 152-171, 186-196, 224-226, 230-238

WebCT: selections from Turner's Frontier Thesis

4/9-4/11 Week 11: *Reconstruction*

FA: 211-224

4/16-4/18 Week 12: *The Gilded Age*

240-242, 245-258

NA: Whitman, "I Sing America," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" (WebCT); Lazarus, "The New Colossus"

video: *The Gilded Age* (PBS, Robert Hughes)

Paper 3 due in class

4/23-4/25 Week 13: *Thinking about Women*

FA: 171-174, 258-280, 292-300

NA: Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"; Chopin, "Desiree's Baby"; Glaspell "Trifles"

4/30-5/2 Week 14: *Modern America:*

The "Modern" in Art: FA: 302-312, 317-322, 325-336

NA: Frost, "Mending Wall," "Stopping By Woods"; Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow"; cummings, "next to of course..."; Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"

5/7-5/9 Week 15: *The Harlem Renaissance*

FA: 350-362

NA: DuBois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings"; Washington, "Chapter XIV, The Atlanta Exposition..."; Hurston, "How it Feels to be Colored Me"; Cullen, "Yet Do I Marvel"

Video: *Against the Odds*

Paper 4 due in class

5/14-5/16 Week 16: *Dreams and Realities in a "Modern" World*

The Depression and the Arts: FA: 364-381

NA: Le Sueur, "Women on the Breadlines" (WebCT); TBA

Final Exam