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ENGLISH 4623 – The American Romantic Movement
Fall 2012

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To provide an increased understanding of the newly awakened American intellect of the nineteenth century as reflected in the essays, poems, stories and novels of seven major authors representative of the period. The literary period for our review will be early Romanticism through Transcendentalism.

MAJOR AUTHORS: Irving, Melville, Hawthorne, Poe, Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman

GRADING: A series of five brief papers (three to seven typed pages) will be required in addition to an objective final examination. Papers will count as the basis for two-thirds of the students' grade, and the objective final exam will count as one third.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend each and every class and should not have any more than two absences. Excessive absences could lead to a student being dropped from the course with an automatic grade of "F."

READING LIST: Irving - Selected readings from The Sketch Book:
"Preface to the Revised Edition"
"The Author's Account of Himself"
"The Voyage"
"Roscoe"
"Rip Van Winkle"
"The Boar's Head Tavern, Eastcheap"
"The Mutability of Literature"
"The Specter Bridegroom"
"Westminster Abbey"
"Stratford on Avon"
"Traits of Indian Character"
"John Bull"
"The Pride of the Village"
"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
"L'Envoi"

Melville - Typee

The Confidence Man

Hawthorne - The House of the Seven Gables

Poe - Selected Writings to include:
"Descent into the Malestrom"
"Eldorado"
"MS Found in a Bottle"
"The Gold Bug"
"The Philosophy of Composition" (Handout)
"The Poetic Principle" (Handout)
"The Tell-Tale Heart"

Emerson - Selected Writings to include:
"The American Scholar"
"Experience"
"Nature"
"Self-Reliance"

Thoreau - Civil Disobedience

Walden

Whitman - Selected Poems to be announced

RECOMMENDED READINGS: The Example of Melville W. Berthoff
Hawthorne's Tragic Vision, Roy Male
American Transcendentalism: 1830-1860. P. F. Boller