

**This course requires access to the internet.*

Deam **Fall 2026**
Gulf Coast State College
Language and Literature Division
AML 2010 e-Learning: American Literature I

Student Checklist for the First Week of the Semester

- Make sure your mailing address is current in the Admissions and Records Office.
- Make certain that you are familiar with the course structure by looking over the course page.
- Make certain that you can locate all of the reading materials on the course page.
- Make certain that you have consistently reliable internet access.
- Contact the instructor during the first week of classes** (submitting the assignments for the first unit accomplishes this point).
- Make arrangements for test proctor if not testing at the GCSC campus. See “Testing Information” for details.

Instructor

Professor Grant Deam

Phone: (850) 769-1551 ext. 2875

Office: Language and Literature Building, room 33

Email: gdeam@gulfcoast.edu (or through Canvas)

Office Hours: TBD

I do my best to return emails within twenty-four hours during the week and forty-eight hours on the weekends. Voicemails are answered upon my return to the office.

Division Contact Information

Professor Betty McKinnie, division chair

Phone: (850) 769-1551 ext. 2887

Office: Language and Literature Building, room 7

Brandon Bowling, division administrative assistant

Phone: (850) 872-3870

Office: Language and Literature Building, room 8

Testing Information

Exam	Date	Time	Location	Units
1	September	By appointment	Respondus Monitor /Approved Proctor	1-4
2	November	By appointment	Respondus Monitor /Approved Proctor	5-10
Final	December	By appointment	Respondus Monitor /Approved Proctor	11-15

Essay I: October – **Essay II:** December



NOTE: Each examination will be taken using Respondus Monitor or proctored through the Testing Center. It is your responsibility to schedule your exam. If you live in Bay County, go to www.registerblast.com/gcsc, click on the e-Learning link, and follow the instructions to schedule the exam. If you live outside the Bay County area, make certain that your proctor information is received by the Testing Center staff at early in the semester as possible. If you plan to use the Testing Center, you must schedule the first two exams a week prior to the date you wish to test and the final exam at least two weeks prior to testing.

Course Description

AML 2010

3 hrs., 3 crs

American Literature I: American Literature through the Civil War

Prerequisite: ENC1102 with minimum grade of "C. (Meets Area III Humanities requirement.)

Major writers, literary movements, forms, and themes of American literature from the discovery of the New World to the end of the Civil War. This course is a Gordon Rule Writing course in which students will produce extensive college-level writing and which requires completion with a minimum grade of "C."

Student Learning Outcomes and Course Requirements for AML 2010

- Students will develop critical thinking skills in the evaluation and judgment of literature.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings through objective tests to be graded by the instructor.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings through written essays to be evaluated according to the rubric for literary analysis
- Students will read the information provided for each unit on the course web page.** The assignments and due dates are listed on the Study Schedule attached to this outline.
- By the end of the semester, students will have submitted a portfolio of two 750 to 1000-word essays, discussion board responses for each unit, and three exams.
- Students will submit computer-generated essays that meet the length requirement listed on the essay assignment and must submit each essay in the appropriate drop box. The compositions will usually be reattached to the same drop box within two weeks from the assignment date; please do not ask when assignments will be returned before two weeks have passed. Especially do not ask immediately after the assignment was submitted.
- Students will take the quizzes for the readings by ten pm Friday night. The quizzes will not be available after they are due.
- Students must post discussion board for every unit by the dates posted on the Study Schedule. The answers to the questions provided must be posted by ten pm Thursday night and the responses to classmates must be posted by ten pm Saturday night. The topics for the entries are given on the web page. **Entries posted after the due dates will be penalized. Entries posted after the assignment has been graded will not be graded.**
- Students must demonstrate competency in use of Standard English. Assignments submitted using nonstandard language will not be graded, and email messages sent using nonstandard language will not receive responses.
- Student folders (portfolios): All evaluated papers and revisions will be retained by the Division of Language and Literature at the end of the term.
- Students will take each exam in a proctored setting. Students in Bay County may use Respondus Monitor or register for the exam with the GCSC Testing Center; students outside of Bay County may use Respondus Monitor or make arrangements with a proctor and have the proctor's information submitted to the testing center at least two weeks before the examination window. No student may take the Final Examination without first having submitted all prior essays and exams in a sequential manner.
- Students must take the Final Examination within the testing window provided on the Study Schedule**



- ❑ No student may take the Final Examination without first having submitted all essays in a sequential manner to the course instructor and having taken all other exams.

Texts and Course Materials

- ❑ The readings for the course will be on Canvas
- ❑ A good writing handbook with the 2023 updates
- ❑ A standard college-level dictionary
- ❑ Portable electronic storage device (such as USB drive, CD-R, floppy disk, etc.)
- ❑ Reliable internet access
- ❑ Other materials on the course web page

“Attendance” or Adherence to Deadlines

Examinations are to be taken within the testing window given on the first page of the syllabus. All students must make testing arrangements at least two weeks before the examination. Although e-Learning permits flexibility for you to read the materials, flexibility in examination dates and other writing assignment deadlines is not permitted. **Examinations administered after the last day of the testing window will receive automatic point deductions.**

For many e-Learning students, the greatest difficulty is procrastination. Expect to spend about twelve hours per week on this class. The reading averages 100 pages per week, and you will have writing and quizzes that will take additional time. Keep up with the schedule of lessons and the due dates for tests and other assignments as indicated on the Study Schedule because essays will be penalized a letter grade per day if submitted late (no exceptions will be made regardless of the reason), and late discussion board posts will be penalized.

Course Repeat Policy, Withdrawals, Total Attempts of a Class, and Grade Forgiveness

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals: student and administrative.

Students wishing to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the college catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of “W”. The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

If you do not fulfill the activities by the stated dates for the first two units, you will be withdrawn from the course. After the first two units, I will not process withdrawals without good reason. If you do not intend to finish the course, you must withdraw yourself. If you stop submitting work but do not withdraw, the grade posted for you will be an F.

Assignments and Evaluation

Grade Determination:

- ❑ 20% of the grade is based on the first two exams (10% each).
- ❑ 10% of the grade is based on the final exam.
- ❑ 30% of the grade is based on the discussion board postings and other assignments.
- ❑ 40% of the grade is based on the essays (20% percent each).
- ❑ Writing grades are determined by the grading standards of the Division of Language and Literature (see attached rubric).
- ❑ **All assignments must be submitted on or before the due date unless pre-arranged with the course instructor. All essays must be submitted to and accepted by the course instructor or the student cannot pass the course.** The compositions and grade reports will usually be resubmitted to you within two weeks from the assignment date; please do not ask when assignments will be returned immediately after the assignment was submitted.



GCSC Grade Scale

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 0-59

Tutorial Services –Writing and Reading Academic Support Lab

The Writing and Reading Lab, located in RC108 & RC110, proudly serves the needs of Gulf Coast State College students who will benefit from help with English, Spanish, writing, and reading. The staff is prepared to assist students who need clarification regarding assignments, suggestions regarding revision, the recognition of patterns of grammatical and mechanical errors, and remediation with specific content area skills, including: reading comprehension, organization of ideas, transitions from one idea to another, grammar, vocabulary development, basic computer skills, MLA style formatting, etc. In addition, the Writing and Reading Lab tutors are happy to help students set up and navigate Canvas.

ONLINE TUTORING: Online tutoring is able to aid students with English, writing, and reading.

NOTE: All of our tutoring services require active participation. This is NOT a proofreading service.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. **Text taken directly from AI text generators like ChatGPT will be considered plagiarism.** Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Printing Information

The PaperCut print management client is installed in all computer labs. The PaperCut user web console is accessed through the MyGCSC portal. The logon is the first part of your student email address, everything before the @mygulfcoast.edu. Students will be required to add money to their PaperCut accounts before they are able to print. Money can be added to student print accounts by cash, credit, or debit card. Cash is accepted at PaperCut kiosks located in the Library. Credit and debit card payments, minimum \$5.00, can be made through the "add credit" tab on the PaperCut user web console. Instructions for the use of PaperCut are located at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/administration-departments/information-technology-services/printing/>.



Incomplete Grade

An “Incomplete” (“I”) will be considered by the instructor if a student has completed seventy-five percent of the class. This will be determined based on attendance, participation, and/or assignment completion. The instructor may require that the student submit a schedule for completion of the missing work. The “Incomplete” provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an “F”.

Right to Record

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students’ having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-39 in the GCSC Student Handbook <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>.

Study Schedule

Make certain that you read all of the information about each author and all of the attached readings for each author (see the unit modules).

Unit / Week	Textbook Assignments	Writing Assignments
1	Christopher Columbus	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
2	Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca John Winthrop	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
3	Mary Rowlandson	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
4	Phillis Wheatley	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
Exam One, September (Covering Units 1-4)		



Unit	Textbook Assignments	Writing Assignments
5	Hannah Webster Foster <i>The Coquette; or The History of Eliza Wharton</i> (letters I-XXXV)	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
6	Hannah Webster Foster <i>The Coquette; or The History of Eliza Wharton</i> (letters XXXVI-LXXIV)	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
7	Washington Irving	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
8	James Fenimore Cooper	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
9	Nathaniel Hawthorne	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
Essay I due October		
10	Edgar Allan Poe	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
Exam Two, November (Covering Units 5-10)		
11	Harriet Beecher Stowe	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
12	Harriet Jacobs	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
13	Frederick Douglass	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
14	Walt Whitman	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
Essay II due December		
15	Herman Melville	Discussion Board Post— see web page for questions to answer Answers to questions due Responses to classmates due
16	Student Conferences	Conducted over Zoom
Week 17: Final Examination, December (Covering Units 11-15)		



Note: The due dates for all essays are listed on the daily course calendar.

Each essay must be 750-1000 words, double-spaced, and computer generated with one-inch margins. All essays for this course are checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.com. Any essay that is plagiarized (in whole or in part) will fail immediately. An essay that is plagiarized completely will result in failing the course as well.

The upper-left corner of your first page should include your name, my name, the class and section number (AML 2010-80442), and the date the essay is due (25 October 2021). The upper-right corner of every page (one-half inch from the top) should have a header that includes your last name and the page number (see the essay setup forms on the class page for examples of the correct paper setup).

Each essay must use twelve-point Times New Roman font.

You must use examples and quotations from the text; therefore, a work(s)-cited page and in-text citations are required. Be original. *If you do not like the topics given, you may come up with your own topic, but I must approve your topic before you write the paper.*

The basis for your essays should be your interpretation of the story, not anyone else's. I do not want you to use secondary sources for these essays. The basis is also not personal experience; your focus should be whichever reading you have chosen. Most importantly, the basis of your writing is not plot summary. You are not being asked to recount the events of the story; your goal is to analyze the story to create a literary argument. Look at the information on the writing checklist posted under course documents for stylistic help with composing your essays.

All work for this course must be original; no work submitted for another course (or another section of this course) can be submitted.

Essay topics

Essay #1 (Units One through Nine)

1. Difficulties of colonization
2. The role of religion in early literature
3. Early views of slavery/captivity
4. Fact and fiction—the difficulty of telling the truth in early personal narratives
5. The supernatural
6. The importance of moral lessons

Essay #2 (Units Ten through Fifteen)

1. The horrific
2. The importance of moral lessons
3. Slavery and hypocrisy
4. Slavery and family
5. Religion and slavery
6. Fact and fiction— similarities between the life of an author and his (or her) writing **(or)** the inherent differences between “slave narratives” and fictional texts about slavery



Writing Checklist

- With every essay written for this class, you are creating an argument. Even with an analytical essay, you attempt to prove something. The easiest way to create an arguable thesis is to use the words “although” and “because.”
- When writing about literature, you must remain in present tense. If you read the same story fifty years from now, it will read the same way. Because the story does not change, the tense you use when referring to the story should not change either.
- When writing about literature, you must have an arguable thesis. Do not make a factual statement and expect that statement to stand as your thesis. You are trying to prove something in your essay. Your thesis should be an indication of what it is that you want to prove.
- Analyze the work. Do not simply summarize what you have read. Your explanation of why events happen and how those events help prove your thesis should be your focus, not a recitation of what the events are.
- Introduce quotations. Do not randomly place quotations in your writing and expect them to make sense to your reader.
- Block quotations are quotations that are longer than four lines. Treat them accordingly.
- Analyze the work. Do not simply summarize the work.
- Avoid superfluous grammar errors. Refer to whatever handbook you have chosen if you are not sure about a grammar rule.
- Do not use contractions. At all. Contractions are not a part of formal writing.
- Avoid the word “you.” Second person should not be used in formal writing.
- Likewise, avoid using “I.” Neither you nor I should play an active role in your essays or in your answers on the discussion board. Keep your writing in third person.
- Avoid writing rhetorical questions. You are not having a conversation with your reader, so no one will answer these questions.
- Be assertive. Do not make “I believe” statements. Your writing is your opinion; your reader knows that what is written in your essay is what you believe.
- Do not use “in chapter seventeen” statements; by the same token, do not use “on page 348” statements. Use proper citations instead of announcing locations of information.
- Do not use trite statements such as “In today’s society.” Rephrasing the statements (for example, “in society today”) does not improve the statements.
- Do not use “In this essay I will” statements—instead of announcing what your essay will do, come up with an arguable thesis. Likewise, do not begin your concluding paragraph with “In conclusion” or “In closing.”
- Your essays must be typed and submitted via the appropriate drop box. Make certain that if you do not use Microsoft Word, you re-format the document to an .rtf file. Hand-written essays will not be graded. If you turn in a hand-written essay, it will be returned to you, and you will be docked a letter grade.
- Use correct spacing. Do not put an extra space at the end of a paragraph, and if you are using a newer version of Word, make certain to get rid of the extra space that is now the natural setting in Word.
- Do not fall into the faulty logic trap. Always double check your work for accuracy and clarity.
- Avoid vague pronoun references. Make sure your reader knows who “he” is.
- Parenthetical documentation is required. If you include a quotation in your essay, cite your source as follows: As he continues to define the term American, Farmer James proclaims, “The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury, and useless labor, he has passed to toils of a very different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence.—This is an American” (Crèvecoeur 599).
- Literature is considered common knowledge, so only direct quotations require citations.



- Make certain that your citations are always correct. If you are writing about poetry, the correct in-text citation will include line numbers, not page numbers, and the quotation will have indications of where the lines change: "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / And sorry I could not travel both / And be one traveler" (Frost lines 1-3).
- Make certain that you always explain the relevance of quotations. Just as you do not want to simply drop a quotation into your essay and assume that your reader will make a connection between the quotation and the information that precedes it, you also do not want to leave that quotation's relevance up to your reader to interpret. Because literature is subjective, your reader might interpret the quotation differently than you intended. With that in mind, never end a paragraph (or essay) with a quotation.
- Create titles for your papers. Do not simply use the essay assignment or the title of the work you are analyzing. Be original.
- Titles of novels and plays are italicized. Titles of short stories, sermons, or poems are placed in quotation marks.
- You must have a work(s)-cited page for every essay. The proper format will be provided.
- Choppy sentences create a paper that is boring to the reader; use a variety of sentence types to avoid this problem.
- Do not refer to the author by first name only; this is too familiar.
- When using numbers, if the number is smaller than 100, spell it out. Also spell out words such as nineteenth.