

LITERATURE

An Introduction to Early American Literature

- I. CRITICAL READING 15%
 - A. Purpose and Main Idea
 - B. Structure
 - C. Restatement of Information
 - D. Genres and their Characteristics
 - E. Language and Tone
 - F. Grammar and Syntax
 - G. Vocabulary in Context
 - H. Diction

- II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND NEW NATION 15%
 - A. What is Early American Literature?
 - B. American Exceptionalism
 - C. American Indians
 - D. Expansion and Unity
 - E. Federalist Poetics
 - F. Age of Revolutions
 - 1. Print Revolution
 - 2. French Revolution
 - 3. Haitian Revolution

- III. CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN, *WIELAND; OR, THE TRANSFORMATION, AN AMERICAN TALE* (1798)30%
 - A. Biography of Brown
 - 1. Early Life and American Quakers
 - 2. Early Career: New York, *Alcuin*, Yellow Fever Epidemic (1789–98)
 - 3. Novelistic Career (1798–1800)
 - 4. Magazine Editor and Political Pamphlets (1800–10)
 - 5. Death and Reputation in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
 - B. The Literary History of the Novel
 - 1. Origins of the Novel
 - 2. Early Novelistic Subgenres
 - 3. Anxiety about Novels
 - 4. The Seduction Novel as Political Allegory
 - C. Characters in *Wieland*
 - 1. Clara Wieland
 - 2. Theodore Wieland
 - 3. Father Wieland
 - 4. Catherine Wieland
 - 5. Henry Pleyel

- 6. Frances Carwin
- 7. Louisa Conway and Other Minor Characters
- D. Settings of *Wieland*
 - 1. Rural Philadelphia: Mettingen
 - 2. Urban Philadelphia
- E. Plot Summary
- F. Novelistic Forms of *Wieland*
 - 1. Epistolary Novel
 - 2. Seduction Novel
 - 3. Gothic Novel
- G. Themes
 - 1. Calvinism to the Enlightenment: Faith versus Reason
 - 2. Partisan Politics in the 1790s: Anarchy versus Tyranny
 - 3. Communication and Representation

III. SHORTER SELECTIONS 40%

- A. SELECTED WORK: J. HECTOR ST. JOHN DE CRÈVECOEUR, *LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN FARMER*, EXCERPTS FROM LETTER III AND LETTER IX (1782)
 - 1. Biography
 - 2. American Exceptionalism
 - 3. Slavery in America
- B. Indian Oration
 - 1. SELECTED WORK: CANASSATEGO, SPEECH AT LANCASTER (1744)
 - a. Biography and Haudenosaunee Politics
 - b. Political Significance
 - 2. SELECTED WORK: CHIEF LOGAN’S SPEECH (1787)
 - a. Biography and Textual History
 - b. Myth of the Noble Savage
- C. SELECTED WORKS: PHILLIS WHEATLEY, “ON BEING BROUGHT FROM AFRICA TO AMERICA” (1773) AND “TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE WILLIAM, EARL OF DARTMOUTH” (1773)
 - 1. Biography
 - 2. Wheatley’s Anti-Slavery Argument
- D. SELECTED WORKS: PHILIP FRENEAU, “ON THE EMIGRATION TO AMERICA” (1785) AND “THE INDIAN BURYING GROUND” (1788)
 - 1. Biography and Textual History
 - 2. American Romanticism
- E. Familiar Letters
 - 1. SELECTED WORK: LETTER FROM ALEXANDER HAMILTON TO ELIZABETH SCHUYLER, AUGUST 1780
 - 2. SELECTED WORK: LETTER FROM ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS, MARCH 31, 1776
- F. SELECTED WORK: JUDITH SARGENT MURRAY, EXCERPT FROM “ON THE EQUALITY OF THE SEXES” (1790)
 - 1. Biography and Textual History
 - 2. Women’s Rights in the Early Nation
- G. SELECTED WORKS: ALEXANDER HAMILTON, FEDERALIST NO. 1 AND JAMES MADISON,

- FEDERALIST NO. 10 (1787)
 - 1. Textual History
 - 2. Federalist No. 1
 - 3. Federalist No. 10
- H. SELECTED WORKS: WASHINGTON IRVING, “THE AUTHOR’S ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF” AND “RIP VAN WINKLE” (1819)
 - 1. Biography
 - 2. American Resources
- I. SELECTED WORK: DAVID WALKER, EXCERPTS FROM *APPEAL IN FOUR ARTICLES* (1829)
 - 1. Biography and Textual History
 - 2. Secular and Sacred Jeremiad
- J. SELECTED WORK: WILLIAM APPESS, “AN INDIAN’S LOOKING-GLASS FOR THE WHITE MAN” (1833)
 - 1. Biography and Textual History
 - 2. Secular and Sacred Jeremiad