

# ENGL 2131 – American Literature I

## Assigned Reading Selections

*No primary text. Multiple external readings assigned. Please see below.*

**Disclaimer:** *The reading selections provided below are intended to offer a general overview of the content to be covered in ENGL2131. These readings are subject to change based on individual course and instructor assignments.*

### Unit 1: Course Introduction

- There are no textbook reading assignments associated with this unit.

### Unit 2: Pre-Colonial America and Colonial Settlements

- Lesson Content
- [Sioux Creation Story](#)
- [Navajo story, "Coyote, Skunk, and Prairie Dogs"](#)
- Christopher Columbus, selections from Letter to King Ferdinand (1493)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- Christopher Columbus, selections from Letter to King Ferdinand (1503)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- John Smith, *General History of Virginia* (1624)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- John Smith, *Description of New England* (1616)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- John Winthrop, selections from *A Model of Christian Charity* (1630)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- John Winthrop, selections from *Journal* (1630-1649)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*

- John Winthrop, selections from "Speech to the General Court" (1645)
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- Excerpts from Anne Hutchinson's trial
  - *Custom selections embedded in course.*
- Mary Rowlandson, [\*A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson\*](#) (1682)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["The Prologue" to \*The Tenth Muse\*](#) (1660)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["To My Dear and Loving Husband"](#)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["A Letter to Her Husband, Absent Upon Public Employment"](#)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["The Author to Her Book"](#)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["In Honour of that High and Mighty Princess, Queen Elizabeth"](#)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["Contemplations"](#)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet, Who Deceased August, 1665, Being a Year and Half Old"](#)
- Anne Bradstreet, ["Here Follows Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House July 10th, 1666"](#)

### Unit 3: Toward a National Literature

- Lesson Content
- Jonathan Edwards, [\*Personal Narrative\*](#) (1739, 1765)
- Jonathan Edwards, [\*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God\*](#) (1741)
- Benjamin Franklin, ["The Way to Wealth"](#) (1765)
- Benjamin Franklin, [\*Autobiography\*](#) (1741)
- Thomas Jefferson, ["The Declaration of Independence"](#) (1776)
- Jean de Crevecoeur, ["What is an American?", \*Letters from an American Farmer\*](#) (1783)
- Phillis Wheatley, ["On Being Brought from Africa to America"](#)
- Phillis Wheatley, ["To the University of Cambridge, in New England"](#)
- Phillis Wheatley, ["On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770"](#)
- Phillis Wheatley, ["Thoughts on the Works of Providence"](#)

- Royall Tyler, [The Contrast](#) (1787)
- Hannah Foster, [The Coquette](#) (1797)

#### Unit 4: The American Renaissance: Transcendentalism and Romanticism

- Lesson Content
- American Romanticism texts:
  - Nathaniel Hawthorne, ["The Birth-Mark"](#) (1843)
  - Herman Melville, ["Bartleby, the Scrivener"](#) (1853)
  - Edgar Allan Poe, ["Sonnet--To Science"](#) (1829)
  - Edgar Allan Poe, ["The Fall of the House of Usher"](#) (1839)
- Transcendentalist texts:
  - Ralph Waldo Emerson, ["Self-Reliance"](#) (1841)
  - Ralph Waldo Emerson, ["Nature"](#) (1836)
    - You are required to read the following selections *only* from this text: "Introduction," "Nature," "Language," "Spirit," and "Prospects"
  - Henry David Thoreau, [Walden, "The Ponds"](#) (1849)
  - Henry David Thoreau, [Walden, "Civil Disobedience"](#) (1849)

#### Unit 5: Nineteenth Century Critical Perspectives

- Lesson Content
- Frederick Douglass, [The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself](#) (1845)
  - You are required to read the following chapters in the text only: **Chapters I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, X and XI.**
- Harriet Jacobs, [Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself](#) (1861)
  - This link provides the full-text of *Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl: Written by Herself*. You are required to read the following chapters in the text only: **Chapters I, II, V, X, XXXIX, XL & XLI.**
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, ["Declaration of Sentiments"](#) (1848)
- Margaret Fuller, [Woman in the Nineteenth Century](#) (1845)

- You are required to read the "Preface" only.
- Rebecca Harding Davis, ["Life in the Iron-Mills"](#) (1861)