

## English 2243 Section 03 -- American Literature Before the Civil War

Spring 2016 TTh 12:30-1:45

Mr. Price

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### Texts

- *Norton Anthology of American Literature. 8th. edition.* Norton. Volumes A & B (pkg. 1)
- **Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*.** 2<sup>nd</sup>. Norton Critical Edition.
- **Online materials as assigned.**



This course surveys American literature from the Colonial foundations of the English colonies through about the Civil War. Chronologically, the class would begin with John Smith's accounts of the Virginia settlement and end with the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Our approach, instead, will be a thematic one, one designed to give us the maximum opportunity to enjoy the best writing of the period, as well as cover the full range. We will first meet Hawthorne's 'dour and humorless' Puritans and then discover that some New Englanders were far from dour or humorless. We will 'sing America' with Whitman as we look at Enlightenment and Transcendentalist writings. Our foray into slavery will be very political, but it will be followed by two sections of fiction, giving us Melville and allowing us to end the class with Edgar Allen Poe. Poetry or fiction will be incorporated into all sections.

### Requirements:

- Three short papers and a take-home final.
- Class participation.
- Online quizzes and two short in-class tests.

