

Declaring America, Inventing Literature
English 3327 // American Literature to 1865 // Fall 2015

Professor:

Donal Harris

Contact:

Patterson Hall 426

(e): donal.harris@memphis.edu

Class Information:

TBA

Office Hours:

TBA

Course Content:

This course is designed to familiarize students with some of the important American literary texts and movements from the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Our readings will cover a wide swath of historical, generic, and thematic ground, but each reading will also demand an attention to the depth and complexity of its unique textual features. We will read both fictional and non-fictional works in our examination of issues of colonial settlement, American Puritanism, identity and autobiography, slavery, women's rights, New England Transcendentalism, and the development of American literature. Throughout the course, we will focus on how the idea of "America" has been understood and represented, as well as how different groups have questioned or revised ideas of national identity.

Texts:

Baym, Nina, Ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol A and B*. 8th Edition.

Brown, Charles Brockden. *Wieland: Or, the Transformation. An American Tale*. 1798. New York: Oxford UP, 2009.