



"Lovejoy, the first Martyr to American Liberty" *Liberty Bell* magazine (1839)

Declaring America, Inventing Literature

English 3327 // U.S. Literature to 1865 // Fall 2018

Professor:
Donal Harris

Contact:
(e) donal.harris@memphis.edu

Class Information:
M/W, 12:40 –2:05a

This course is designed to familiarize students with important literary texts written in or about the Americas from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. Our readings will cover a wide swath of historical, generic, and thematic ground, covering material from early European exploration to abolitionism. We will read both fictional and non-fictional works related to colonial settlement, American Puritanism, the revolutionary era, slavery, women's rights, and New England Transcendentalism. Throughout the course, we will focus on how the related concepts of "America" and "American literature" get invented and revised in the hands of different writers in specific historical moments. Assignments include: in-class midterm and final, a close-reading essay, and a primary research-based final paper.

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.