

-Declaring America, Inventing Literature
English 3327 // American Literature to 1865 // Spring 2018

Professor:

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Class Information:M/W: 2:20pm

Course Content:

This course explores the creation of the concepts of “America” and “American literature” from the time of early Spanish exploration until the Civil War. It is designed to familiarize students with some of the important American literary texts and movements from since the late fifteenth century, but it also keeps an eye on how those early moments echo into our present ideas about political and literary representation. We’ll 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. Likely authors include Columbus, William Bradford, Anne Bradstreet, Thomas Morton, Mary Rowlandson, Thomas Jefferson, Phyllis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Washington Irving, Nathanael Hawthorne, and Herman Melville, among others.

*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.