

**L'Université de Montréal, Faculté des Arts et des Sciences
Département d'études anglaises**

**ANG 2173 : American Literature 1776 to 1900
Automne 2011**

Professeur : Dr. E. Savoy
Bureau : C-8104
Heures de consultation : le mercredi 14h00-16h00 (par rendez-vous)
Courriel : eric.savoy@umontreal.ca

Description du cours :

Why does Classic American Literature matter now? This course will attempt to answer that question by tracing deep continuities in the literature of the United States. Unlike traditional survey courses of national literatures or historical periods, the texts we shall read in this course are not limited by date or by national origin to the American 19th century. Instead, we shall approach the American Renaissance – the great flowering of literature in the United States – as an archive that continues to shape, and to haunt, a wide range of writers, forms, literary genres, and cultural preoccupations.

We shall focus on five great writers of the 1840s and 1850s, and each will be read alongside a contemporary writer who builds on the American literary archive. The relation of canonical literature to the present is the chief focus of this course. We shall read a variety of genres : fiction, life writing, poetry, journalism.

Évaluation :

One formal class presentation, followed by a short essay	25%
An essay of 10-12 pages, due December 5	50%
Final examination (December 12)	25%

Corpus :

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume B (1820-1865).

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*. Seal Books.

Paul Auster, *The New York Trilogy*. Penguin.

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickle and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*. Holt.

Adrienne Rich, *Atlas of the Difficult World*. Norton.

Annie Proulx, *Bird Cloud : A Memoir*. Scribner.

Structure :

This course consists of five, thematically defined 'study units,' each of which features a pair of authors: one 19th century author and one contemporary author:

1. Religion, Sex, and Reproduction in America : Hawthorne and Atwood
2. Voyeurism and Postmodernity: Poe and Auster
3. Economics : Douglass, Ehrenreich
4. Democracy and Radical Poetics : Whitman, Rich
5. Dwelling : Thoreau, Proulx