English 306: Forms of the Novel  
Spring 2016, T/R, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 214 Simpkins Hall  
Professor: Dr. Timothy Helwig  
Office: 010 Simpkins Hall  
Office Phone: 298-1213  
Office Hours: T & R, 2:00-3:00 p.m.; W, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Email: TW-Helwig@wiu.edu

Course Objectives  
This English course will analyze a series of canonical and popular novels representative of the major literary movements in American literature. Historicizing and critically contextualizing novels from American romanticism, realism, naturalism, modernism, and postmodernism will provide us with a deep and coherent overview of what makes American literature unique, dynamic, and crucial to understanding our national culture, and will teach us the key formal elements of the novel. Paying special attention to the novels’ representations of class, racial, and gendered difference will enable us to appreciate the important role literature has played in the formation of an American identity that is always contested.

Required Texts  
*Additional texts are available as PDFs on our Western Online course space.*

Course Policies  
1a. Attendance and Class Participation. Although I will provide background and context for our reading when appropriate, the course will rely upon your active participation and your own exploration of our texts. Because our class discussions depend upon everyone's thoughtful contributions, it is essential that you maintain regular attendance and that you come prepared to discuss the reading material each day. Each student is allowed four absences total. I do not expect or require students to explain nor document these absences, and I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Students who have five absences will receive an automatic “0” for their class participation grade (10% of your final grade). Students who have six or more total absences will receive an automatic F for the course. Finally, chronic tardiness will negatively affect your class participation grade, so please arrive promptly to class.

1b. Laptop and Cellphone Policy. Typing on a laptop or texting on a cellphone is distracting to me and to your peers. Therefore, unless you have a documented disability that permits the use of a laptop for note taking, you are not permitted to use a laptop during class. Cellphones, which can play a valuable role in the event of an emergency, should be set to vibrate at the beginning of class. Cellphone texting during class is strictly prohibited and will result in dismissal from the classroom and the loss of a full letter grade of class participation for each infraction after an initial warning. In the event of a personal emergency, please excuse yourself from the classroom to use your cellphone.
2a. Final Paper Project. During the second half of the semester, you will develop and write a 6-8 page final paper that engages at least one critical article on an approved topic of your choice. By Saturday, April 9, you will propose a topic for your final paper; once your topic is approved, you will continue to conduct research and gather at least one quality secondary source to help you develop your final paper. By Thursday, April 21, you will submit a two-page final paper proposal that outlines your main argument and explains how you will make use of at least one critical article in your final paper. Based on my feedback, you will continue to refine and develop your argument in preparation for Peer Review Workshop on Thursday, May 5. Your final paper is due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2016. Please note that late papers will be docked one full letter grade for each day that passes without submission, and your final paper must be turned in no later than the start of the final exam if you are to pass this course.

2b. Short Paper. During week five, you will write and submit by Thursday, February 18 a 3-4 page literary analysis in response to a specific prompt about Charles Brockden Brown’s *Wieland*.

2c. Electronic Submission. Papers will be submitted electronically on Western Online, and the three paper assignment sheets will review how to submit your paper. If you are unsure about how to submit your paper, please speak with me well before the due date. Because you will submit papers electronically, you should save your work in several formats (on a hard drive, on a flash drive, by emailing the paper to yourself). Technology problems are not an excuse for submitting a paper late.

2d. Final Paper Peer Review Workshop. On Thursday, May 5, 2016, you will conduct a Peer Review Workshop with a draft of your Final Paper. Being unprepared or being absent for the workshop will result in the loss of a full letter grade on your Final Paper.

3. Academic Integrity. Academic integrity is an important part of our intellectual community at Western Illinois University; therefore, acts of plagiarism and cheating will result in failure for the course and referral for academic discipline. Please review the university’s Student Academic Integrity Policy online at http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php.

4. Exams. You will have a mid-term exam and a cumulative final exam in this course.

5. Western Online Discussion Posts. Four times this semester, you will be asked to complete a short writing assignment related to that week’s lesson and to post your response to Western Online prior to class. Each assignment is worth 2.5% of your final course grade and must be submitted on time to receive credit.

6. Office Hours and Email. Over the course of the semester, you are encouraged to visit me during my office hours. They are available to you to use without setting up an appointment, although you are welcome to set up an appointment, too. If you are not able to meet during my office hours, please email me to set up an appointment. The best way to keep in touch with me during the semester is by email: I will respond to email inquiries within 48 hours. Over email you may make appointments to meet with me and you may ask questions regarding the assignments.

7. University Writing Center (UWC) offers students at any academic level collaborative, one-on-one consultation on writing projects from any discipline at any point in the writing process. People often mistakenly think of writing centers as places for people in trouble—places where “experts” tell them everything that is wrong with their writing. That is not the case here. We believe that writing is a social act and that talking about writing is essential to revision, no matter the skill level of the writer. We
have four writing centers open on the Macomb campus for your convenience, and you can walk in or call to make an appointment: 3rd Floor, West Side of Malpass Library (298-2815), and satellite centers in 107 Simpkins Hall (298-1043), 108 Tanner Hall (298-3477), and Basement of Bayliss Hall (298-3624). Please note that a visit to the UWC should be a supplement—rather than a replacement—for talking about your paper with me. See the UWC’s webpage for more information: http://www.wiu.edu/university_writing_center/index.php

8. Disability Support Services: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

9. Please review your Student Rights and Responsibilities online at www.wiu.edu/provost/students, and see me if you have any questions.

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<tr>
<th>Breakdown of Final Grade</th>
<th>+/- Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15% Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>A.....93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>20% Final Exam</td>
<td>C.....73-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% Short Paper</td>
<td>A.....90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>20% Final Paper</td>
<td>C-.....70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Western Online Discussion Posts</td>
<td>B.....88-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Final Paper Proposal</td>
<td>D+.....68-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Class Participation</td>
<td>B.....80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D-.....63-67</td>
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<td>C+.....78-79</td>
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<td>F.....59 and below</td>
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Schedule of Readings and Assignments
Please note that the assignments are subject to change based upon the needs of our class, and that you are responsible for keeping apprised of announced changes in the schedule.

WEEK ONE

1/19 Introduction: J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur, Letters From an American Farmer; What Is American Gothic Fiction?

1/21 Student Questionnaire Due in Class. Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland, pp. 1-41; “Plot” in A Short Guide to Reading Novels and Short Stories (Western Online); “American literature, 1700-1820,” pp. 365-376 (Western Online).

WEEK TWO

1/26 Western Online Discussion Post #1 Due by 11:00 a.m. Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland, pp. 42-128; “Narrative Structure” in A Guide to Reading Novels and Short Stories (Western Online); Cathy Davidson, “New Genre, New Nation,” pp. 3-13 (Western Online).

### WEEK THREE


### WEEK FOUR


### WEEK FIVE


2/18  **Short Paper Due by 11:00 a.m. on Western Online.** Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, pp. 271-347.

### WEEK SIX

2/23  **Western Online Discussion Post #2 Due by 11:00 a.m.** Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, pp. 348-408; Sophia Cantave, “Who Gets to Create the Lasting Images? The Problem of Black Representation in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin,*” pp. 582-595.


### WEEK SEVEN

3/1  Film: *Twelve Years a Slave*

3/3  Film: *Twelve Years a Slave*

3/5  **Western Online Discussion Post #3 Due by 11:59 p.m.**

### WEEK EIGHT

3/8  Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig*, pp. 41-80; Mid-Term Exam Preparation.

3/10  **Mid-Term Exam**
SPRING BREAK: MARCH 14-18—NO CLASSES

WEEK NINE


WEEK TEN


3/31  **Western Online Discussion Post #4 Due by 11:00 a.m.** Henry James, *The American*, pp. 235-309.

WEEK ELEVEN


4/9  **Final Paper Topic Proposal Worksheet Due by 11:59 p.m. on Western Online.**

WEEK TWELVE


4/14  Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, pp. 75-130.

WEEK THIRTEEN


4/21  **Final Paper Proposal Due by 11:00 a.m. on Western Online.** Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, pp. 209-251.

WEEK FOURTEEN


WEEK FIFTEEN & FINAL EXAM


5/5  Peer Review Workshop for Final Paper; Final Exam Preparation.

5/6  Final Paper Due by 11:59 p.m. on Western Online.

5/12 Final Exam 10:00-11:50 a.m. in 214 Simpkins Hall.