

AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1800

BC 3179x Fall 2009

MW 11:00-12:15 Milbank 302

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BC 3179x surveys American literature written before 1800. While we will devote some attention to the literary traditions that preceded British colonization, most of our readings will be of texts written in English between 1620 and 1800. These texts--histories, autobiographies, poems, plays, and novels--illuminate the complexity of this period of American culture. They tell stories of pilgrimage, colonization, and genocide; private piety and public life; the growth of national identity (political, cultural, and literary); Puritanism, Quakerism, and Deism; race and gender; slavery and the beginnings of a movement towards its abolition. We will consider, as we read, the ways that these stories overlap and interconnect, and the ways that they shape texts of different periods and genres.

TEXTS:

The following texts have been ordered at the Columbia University Bookstore:

Author	Title	Notes
Bradford	<i>Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647</i> (Modern Library College Edition)	
Baym, ed.	<i>The Norton Anthology of American Literature</i> , 7th edition, Vol. A	The 6th edition of the NAAL does not include Foster's <i>The Coquette</i> . The novel is available both online at http://tinyurl.com/2eu97o and in a paperback edition from Oxford University Press. Students planning to enroll in ENG BC3180y may want to purchase Package 1, which includes both Vol. A and Vol. B
McGiffert, ed.	<i>God's Plot: Puritan Spirituality in Thomas Shepard's Cambridge</i> (University of Massachusetts Press)	The assignment in this text is relatively brief. Though the book is excellent, the frugal may want to do this reading on reserve.
Wigglesworth	<i>The Day of Doom</i> (American Eagle)	This text is out of print. The bookstore has stocked a few used copies, but most of us will have to work with the text online.
Woolman	<i>The Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman</i> (Friends United)	Please read from the assigned edition; available online versions and most other printed texts are incomplete.
Brown	<i>Wieland and Memoirs of Carwin</i> (Penguin)	Available online at http://tinyurl.com/39cfch
Recommended text: Equiano	<i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> (Penguin)	This text is available as a supplement to the excerpts from Equiano's <i>Narrative</i> printed in the <i>Norton Anthology</i> . Students who choose to write on Equiano may wish to purchase this text.

These texts have also been placed on reserve at the Barnard library. Links to texts available online, as well as links to supplementary material, are available at the course website. Texts marked with a W on the schedule of readings below are available online, but are password protected. When you click on these links, you will be asked to enter a username and password. Enter the username **gordis** and the password **texts**.

Please inform me **immediately** if you have difficulty obtaining any course texts.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

You are expected to **attend class regularly** and to **participate in discussion**. To facilitate that discussion, you are expected to have completed all reading by the date for which it is assigned. Note that some of the assignments are long, and plan ahead. Please bring assigned readings to class each day. If you read on reserve, please bring your reading notes.

This course also has a **web site** from which you can access the schedule of readings and other course materials. Its URL is <http://www.columbia.edu/~lmg21/bc3179/3179home.html>.

In order to enhance our discussion, I've also set up a **wiki** for this course. To **join** the wiki, go to https://www1.columbia.edu/sec-cgi-bin/ccnmtl/projects/wikispaces-admin/selfjoin_course.php and log in using your uni. You'll be given a drop-down box with a list of course wikis, from which you should select **englx3179-001-2009-3**. Then click **join**. Once you've done this, you can access the wiki directly by going to <https://englx3179-001-2009-3.wikispaces.columbia.edu/>.

Some of you may not have worked with wikis before. A wiki is a website that allows users to create and edit pages. We'll use the wiki both for **discussion outside of class** and for **formal assignments**. Each author will have a page in the wiki. You should feel free to post questions about reading assignments before or after class, and you should also feel free to reply to your classmates' questions.

The following **four wiki assignments** are required:

1. By **September 14**, go to the Course participants page and add yourself to the alphabetical list. Then, follow the instructions on that page to create your page in the wiki. Go to that page, and write a few sentences introducing yourself to the class. Tell us your name, what you like to be called, where you're from, what you're studying, and anything else you think we should know about you.
2. By **October 12**, post one of your reaction papers to the wiki. Go to the appropriate author page and add your name and paper title (e.g. Lisa Gordis, "Anne Bradstreet's Metaphors") to the list of posted papers. Then create a link to make a new page for your paper, and copy and paste from your word processor onto that page. Finally, go to your wiki page and create a link to your paper.
3. By **November 2**, use the wiki's comments feature to post a one-paragraph response to a classmate's posted reaction paper.
4. By **November 13**, post a second reaction paper to the wiki.

Once you've made these four postings, you may post again or not as you wish. You should, however, check the wiki periodically to see what your classmates have been writing and to see if there are any course-related announcements.

WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS:

You will write **six two-page reaction papers** during the course of the semester. Reaction papers are due at 11:00 am on the day for which the material about which you're writing is assigned. They should discuss a particular aspect of the assigned reading. You may do a close reading of a passage, explore a theme or issue in the text, or connect the assigned text with other texts you've studied, either within or outside of the course. While each paper need not be a fully-developed essay with a fully explicated thesis, it should be an essay rather than a stream-of-consciousness document. Its prose should be paragraphed, polished, and free of errors. Moreover, each essay should reveal that you've put some serious thought into the assigned reading, and should show close work with the language of the text.

During the semester, you must write six such essays. Essays are due on the day that we're discussing the material about which you're writing. You may not submit more than one essay in a week without requesting special permission to do so. You must hand in your first reaction paper **no later than October 12**. Aside from these constraints, you may choose when to write your essays.

Reaction papers will be graded on a $\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$ basis. You must post two of your reaction papers to the wiki during the semester. When you have written six reaction papers (**and by December 14**) you will resubmit the full set of six reaction papers in a **portfolio**. Your portfolio must include the **original papers with my comments on them**. You may also include revised versions of some or all papers, but revision of reaction papers is entirely optional. The full portfolio will be assigned a letter grade.

In addition, you will write **one five-to-six-page paper** on a topic of your choosing, which may develop out of your reaction papers. I will hand out suggested paper topics at several points during the term, and you may also develop your own topic in consultation with me. I strongly encourage you to consult with me as you write your essays. I'm happy to speak to you about ideas, about tentative outlines, and about rough drafts. This paper may be submitted at any point before **December 7**. However, if you submit your paper **by November 6**, you will have the opportunity to submit a revised version of the paper two weeks after it is returned to you.

Finally, there will be a comprehensive, closed-book **final examination** during the exam period.

If you find yourself unable to complete an assignment by the due date, you must speak to me in advance. Work that is late without an extension will be penalized.

All essays (including reaction papers) must be typed, double-spaced, on white paper in standard fonts. Please don't use very small or very large fonts to squeeze or stretch out your essay. The page guidelines apply to standard 12-point fonts. Papers should follow the new MLA guidelines for essays; see *Rules for Writers*, *A Writer's Reference*, or *The MLA Handbook* for details.

The Barnard English department, like Barnard College as a whole, values intellectual integrity very highly. Plagiarism (using the words or ideas of others without appropriate attribution) is a serious violation, and I report *all* cases of plagiarism to the Dean of Studies *without exception*. If you are at all confused about appropriate acknowledgment of sources, please see me for clarification.

I will calculate your grade based on the following formula:

reaction papers:	30%
five-to-six-page essay:	30%
final exam:	30%
class participation:	10%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS: (NA = Norton Anthology 7th edition; W = online)

W 9/9	Introduction and Origins
M 9/14	ORIGINS II: Bradford, <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> , chs. 1-14 (Modern College Library Edition pp. 1-154) DUE: WIKI ASSIGNMENT 1: CREATION OF YOUR WIKI PAGE AND POSTING OF AN INTRODUCTION.W
W 9/16	ORIGINS II, continued: Bradford, <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> , chs. 15-22 (Modern College Library Edition pp. 154-277); Morton, <i>New English Canaan</i> (excerpts in NA 138-146)
M 9/21	ORIGINS II, continued: Bradford, <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> , chs. 23-36 (Modern College Library Edition pp. 278-385)
W 9/23	ORIGINS III: Winthrop, <i>A Model of Christian Charity</i> (NA 147-158); "[Winthrop's Speech to the General Court]," from <i>The Journal of John Winthrop</i> (NA 164-167)
M 9/28	YOM KIPPUR—NO CLASS
W 9/30	THE PURITAN SERMON: Hooker, <i>The Soules Preparation</i> (excerpts on W), Cotton, <i>Christ the Fountaine of Life</i> , sermons 1 and 3 (W); Shepard, <i>The Parable of the Ten Virgins</i> , chs. 1-6 (W)
M 10/5	PRIVATE PIETY: Thomas Shepard, <i>The Autobiography</i> , in <i>God's Plot</i> , pp. 35-79.
W 10/7	PURITAN POETS I: Bradstreet, "The Prologue" (NA 188-189), "In Honor of That High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy Memory" (NA 189-93); "Contemplations"

- (NA 195-202), "The Flesh and the Spirit" (NA 202-204), "The Author to Her Book" (NA 204-205), "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" (NA 205-206), "To My Dear and Loving Husband" (NA 206), "A Letter to Her Husband Absent Upon Public Employment" (NA 206-207), "Another [Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment]" (NA 207-208), "Here Follows Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House" (NA 212-213), "As Weary Pilgrim" (NA 213-214), "Meditations Divine and Moral" 38 (handout), "A Dialogue between Old England and New" (W), "To My Dear Children" (NA 214-217)
- M 10/12 PURITAN POETS II: Bradstreet continued; Taylor, "Prologue" (NA 269-270), "Meditation 8 (First Series)" (NA 270-271), "Meditation 16 (First Series)" (NA 271-272), "Meditation 22 (First Series)" (NA 272-273), "Meditation 42 (First Series)" (NA 275-276), "Meditation 26 (Second Series)" (NA 276-277), "Meditation 150 (Second Series)" (NA 277-278), "The Preface" (NA 278-279), "The Soul's Groan to Christ for Succor" (NA 279-280), "Christ's Reply" (NA 280-283), "The Joy of Church Fellowship Rightly Attended" (W), "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children" (NA 283-284), "Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold" (NA 284-285), "The Ebb and Flow" (W), "Upon the Sweeping Flood" (W), "Meditation 3 (First Series)" (W); George Herbert, "Jordan (II)" (W).
- DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FIRST REACTION PAPER**
- W 10/14 PURITAN POETS II: Taylor, continued
*** DUE: WIKI ASSIGNMENT 2: POST A REACTION PAPER TO THE WIKI, CREATING LINKS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AUTHOR PAGE AND FROM YOUR WIKI PAGE.**
- M 10/19 PURITAN POETS III: Wigglesworth, *The Day of Doom*. If you're reading from the University of Virginia etext, please see the EEBO edition for "A [Prayer] unto Christ the ludge of the World."
- W 10/21 CAPTIVITY NARRATIVE: Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (NA 235-267)
- M 10/26 JONATHAN EDWARDS AS SCHOLAR AND THEOLOGIAN: "A Divine and Supernatural Light" (NA 404-417), "[The Beauty of the World]" (W), excerpts from *Images or Shadows of Divine Things* (W)
- W 10/28 EDWARDS AND THE GREAT AWAKENING: Edwards, "Personal Narrative" (NA 386-396) "[Sarah Pierrepont]" (NA 396-397), "Letter to Rev. Dr. Benjamin Colman" (NA 417-425), "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (NA 425-436); Charles Chauncy, "Enthusiasm Described and Cautioned Against" (excerpt, W)
- M 11/2 **ACADEMIC HOLIDAY--NO CLASS**
- W 11/4 THE AWAKENING, CONTINUED: Samson Occom, *A Short Narrative of My Life* (NA 440-1 and W); and John Marrant, *A Narrative of the Lord's Wonderful Dealings with John Marrant, a Black* (W)
- F 11/06 *** DUE: WIKI ASSIGNMENT 3: USE THE WIKI'S COMMENTS FEATURE TO POST A ONE-PARAGRAPH RESPONSE TO A CLASSMATE'S POSTED REACTION PAPER.**
- M 11/9 QUAKER PIETY AND ABOLITION: Woolman, *The Journal of John Woolman* (23-192, 297-8)
- W 11/11 QUAKER PIETY AND ABOLITION: Woolman, continued.
- M 11/16 DECLARING INDEPENDENCE I: Franklin, *The Autobiography* (NA 472-587)
- W 11/18 DECLARING INDEPENDENCE I: Franklin, continued. Paine, *The Age of Reason* (excerpt in NA 643-649)
*** DUE: WIKI ASSIGNMENT 4: POST A SECOND REACTION PAPER TO THE WIKI, CREATING LINKS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AUTHOR PAGE AND FROM YOUR WIKI PAGE.**

- M 11/23 DECLARING INDEPENDENCE II: Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (excerpts in NA 674-709)
- W 11/25 DECLARING INDEPENDENCE III: Paine, *Common Sense* (excerpts in NA 630-637); Jefferson, *The Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson* (excerpts in NA 649-657); Adams and Adams, *The Letters of John and Abigail Adams* (excerpts in NA 616-629), Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes" (NA 724-733)
- M 11/30 AMERICAN NEOCLASSICISM AND PUBLIC POLEMICAL VERSE:
Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America" (NA 753-753), "To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for North America, &c." (NA 754-755), "To the University of Cambridge, in New England" (NA 755-756), "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770" (NA 756-757), "Thoughts on the Works of Providence" (NA 757-760), "To His Excellency General Washington" (NA 761-762), selected letters (NA 763-764); Freneau, "On the Emigration to America and Peopling the Western Country" (NA 743-744), "The Wild Honey Suckle" (NA 744-745), "The Indian Burying Ground" (NA 745-746), "To Sir Toby" (NA 746-748), "On Mr. Paine's Rights of Man" (NA 748-749), "On the Religion of Nature" (NA 749-750), "Literary Importation" (handout)
- W 12/2 AMERICAN AND ENGLISH CULTURE: Barlow, *The Hasty Pudding* (W); Tyler, *The Contrast* (NA 764-805)
- M 12/7 THE NOVEL IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC I: Foster, *The Coquette* (NA 806-904)
*** FINAL DEADLINE FOR FIVE-TO-SIX-PAGE PAPER**
- W 12/9 THE NOVEL IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC II: Brown, *Wieland*; Crèvecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer* (excerpt in NA 595-605).
(Note: *Memoirs of Carwin*, printed with *Wieland* in the Penguin edition, is not assigned.)
- M 12/14 THE NOVEL IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC II: Brown, *Wieland*, continued, and CONCLUSION
*** FINAL REACTION PAPERS DUE**
*** REACTION PAPER PORTFOLIOS DUE**
- W 12/16 OPTIONAL REVIEW SESSION

FINAL EXAMINATION as scheduled by the registrar, tentatively scheduled for **Monday December 21 at 9 am in Milbank 302.**