

# AMERICAN STUDIES 1020: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES

## AMERICAN STUDIES 1020 Introduction to American Studies

Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm  
SEB-2202

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Tom Cull  
**EMAIL** [tcull3@uwo.ca](mailto:tcull3@uwo.ca)

### **TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**

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### **REQUIRED READINGS**

(Available at the UWO Bookstore)

- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*
- Custom Coursepack "Introduction to American Studies"
- Additional readings to be posted online. Please visit <http://webct.uwo.ca> and click on the link for OWL Powered by Sakai.



American Studies 1020 offers students an interdisciplinary exploration of the values, society, and cultural expressions of the people of the United States in order to understand how Americans have understood and argued about the meaning and significance of their national identity. Over the course of the academic year, we will read the nation across a variety of culturally significant texts in an effort to better understand the conflicts, attitudes, mythologies, and contexts that shaped the nation we know today. We will wade into centuries-old arguments, take part in longstanding debates and feuds, and read widely in literature, history, and politics in order to expand our sense of "America" toward a fuller, more nuanced sense of the nation's rich history and its cultures.

### **Semester 1 Assignments**

	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Critical Response	15%	1000 words	November 7
Participation	10% (Full Year)	N/A	N/A
Midterm Exam	25%	TBA	TBA

## Participation

Your participation score will be assessed based partially on your attendance, but also on the quality and frequency of your in-class contributions. Students must come to class and tutorials having already completed the readings and prepared to discuss them. Your participation score will be determined by the TA for your respective tutorial.

## Critical Response

For the critical response assignment, students must write a brief (1000-word) response to one of four questions that will be distributed no later than week 3.

It is crucial for this assignment that your piece has a clearly articulated position supported by evidence from the texts you have chose to discuss as well thoughtful attentive analysis and logical argument. No additional research is required for this assignment.

## Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be scheduled by UWO during the regular December exam period. Please note that as the professor I have no control whatsoever over the scheduling of the exam. Do not make your travel arrangements until the final exam schedule is released. The format of the final exam will be announced towards the end of the course.

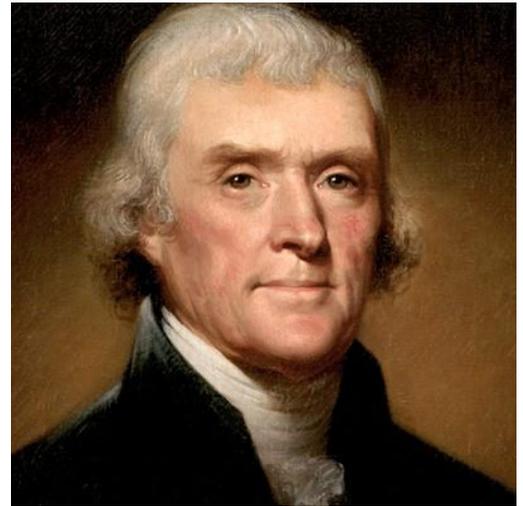
## Semester Two Assignments

	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Research Paper</i>	25%	2000 words	<i>March 13-outline</i> <i>April 3-final.</i>
<i>Participation</i>	10% (Full Year)	N/A	N/A
<i>Final Exam</i>	25%	TBA	TBA

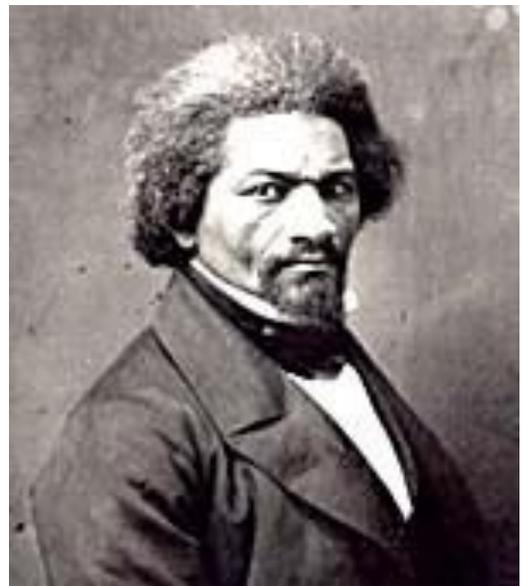
## Research Paper

In the second semester, you will write a research paper that responds to one of four essay questions. The grade for this assignment is divided into two parts, 10% for an essay outline and annotated bibliography, and 15% for the final paper. Students must hand in an essay outline that includes a **thesis, paragraph outline**, and an **annotated bibliography**. An annotated bibliography not only gives the basic bibliographic information of a source, but also includes a concise description of the source's main arguments, methodologies and conclusions. It will also state the source's relevance to your project. In your essay you must use at least one primary source from the syllabus readings and at least two additional sources (scholarly articles, books, book chapters).

**Note: In this course, you will be required to submit a final electronic copy of written assignments to [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) through the OWL HomePage**



"We shall divert through our own Country a branch of commerce which the European States have thought worthy of the most important struggles and sacrifices, and in the event of peace [ending the American Revolution]...we shall form to the American union a barrier against the dangerous extension of the British Province of Canada and add to the Empire of liberty an extensive and fertile Country thereby converting dangerous Enemies into valuable friends." - Thomas Jefferson



"Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought life and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth [of] July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn." - Frederick Douglass

## Tutorials

In each tutorial, you will discuss material from the previous lecture. Please note that your attendance in tutorial does not constitute participation. Your attendance is mandatory. Simply being present in the room is insufficient if you want to receive a good participation grade. You must read the weekly assigned readings and be an engaged, active participant.

## Policy on Late Assignments

Marks will be deducted for assignments that are submitted after the due date and time. The **penalty for late assignments** will be 3% for the first day and 2% for each additional day, including weekend days. Extensions will be granted with acceptable medical (or other emergency-related) documentation only, which must be obtained through the office of Academic Counselling. **Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted.**

## Support Services

The website for the Western's Office of the Registrar is: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social, and academic needs of students, in a confidential environment.

The Student Development Centre (SDC) has trained staff and an array of services to help students achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. See: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>

The Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) has staff members who specialize in assisting students with various disabilities to adjust to the university environment. See: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd>.

For information related to accessibility, including accessible routes, temporary service disruptions, and university policies related to accessibility issues, see: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

## Medical Accommodation Policy:

For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

(downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor. Students in these circumstances are to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds.

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course).

**All** medical documentation **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's home Faculty.

**Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:**

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## Semester 1 Course Schedule

Date	Assignment
September 12	Introduction: The Object of American Studies *Tutorials begin
September 19	<b>What is America?</b> Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (OL)
September 26	<b>What is an American?</b> Read: Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, "What is an American" (OL); Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar" (OL)
October 3	<b>Revolution and Counter-Revolution</b> Read: The Declaration of Independence (OL); The Constitution (OL); <i>The Federalist</i> #10; "A Consolidated Government is a Tyranny" (OL)
October 10	<b>Thanksgiving. No classes or tutorials this week.</b>
October 17	<b>Slavery in America I</b> Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
October 24	<b>Slavery in America II</b> Jefferson, from <i>Notes on the State of Virginia</i> (OL); Calhoun, "Slavery a Positive Good" (OL); Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (OL)
October 31	<b>Women in the Nineteenth Century</b> Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments" (OL); Fuller, from <i>The Great Lawsuit</i> (CP); Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?" (OL)
November 7	<b>An Empire for Liberty</b> Jefferson to Madison, 27 April 1809 (OL) O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity" (OL) Whitman, "Facing West from California's Shores" (OL) <b>Critical Response due in class.</b>
November 14	<b>The Vanishing American</b> From <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> ("Introduction" and chapter 33) (OL); Apess, "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man" (OL)
November 21	<b>The American 1848</b> Anaya, <i>Bless Me Ultima</i> Anzaldua, From <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i> (CP)
November 28	<b>Brother Against Brother</b> Timrod, "Ethnogenesis" (OL); Lincoln, First Inaugural Address, The Gettysburg Address, and the Second Inaugural Address (OL)
December 5	<b>Wrap-up and Review</b> Douglass, "The Lessons of the Hour" <b>No tutorials this week</b>

**Second Semester begins January 9th. Reading for that week: Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (OL) \*Tutorials Resume**

## Semester 2 Course Schedule

Date	Assignment
January 9	<b>Scenes from the World's Fair, 1893</b> Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (OL) <b>Tutorials Resume</b>
January 16	<b>The Great Barbecue</b> Garland, "Under the Lion's Paw" (OL); Carnegie, "Wealth" (OL)
January 23	<b>American Modernism and The Progressive Era</b> Addams, "Why Women Should Vote" (OL); Adams, "The Dynamo and the Virgin" (OL); Roosevelt, "The Vigor of Life" (OL); Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow," (OL); Stevens, "The Snow Man" (OL); Sandburg, "Chicago," "Skyscrapers" (OL)
January 30	<b>New Americans</b> The Immigration Restriction League, "The Present Aspect of the Immigration Problem" (OL); Gompers, from "Some Reasons for Chinese Exclusion: Meat vs Rice" (OL; pp. 25-30)
February 6	<b>The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance</b> Locke, "The New Negro" (OL); Hughes, "Notes on Commercial Theatre" (OL); McKay, "If We Must Die" (OL)
February 13	<b>The Great Depression and the New Deal</b> Fitzgerald, "Echoes of the Jazz Age" (OL); Steinbeck, from <i>The Harvest Gypsies</i> (OL)
February 20	<b>Reading Week. No classes or tutorials.</b>
February 27	<b>Paranoia and Prosperity</b> Nixon and Khrushchev, "The Kitchen Debate" (video in-class); Lichtman, "Do-It-Yourself Security: Safety, Gender, and the Home Fallout Shelter in Cold War America" (OL)
March 6	<b>Civil Rights</b> <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas</i> (OL); King, Jr., "Where Do We Go From Here?" (OL); Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet," (OL); Carmichael and Hamilton, "White Power: The Colonial Situation" (CP)
March 13	<b>Vietnam</b> Hayden, "Port Huron Statement of the Students for a Democratic Society" (OL); Potter, "The Incredible War" (OL); Cookman, "An American Atrocity: The My Lai Massacre Concretized" (OL) <b>Research Paper Outline due in class (10%)</b>
March 20	<b>The Frontier Myth Revisited</b> Film: <i>No Country for Old Men</i> (1993)
March 27	<b>Second-Wave Feminism</b> Friedan, "The Happy Housewife Heroine" (CP); National Organization for Women, "Statement of Purpose" (OL)
April 3	<b>From the Bush Doctrine to the Age of Obama</b> <b>Research Paper Due in class (15%)</b>
April 10	<b>Wrap-Up and Review</b>

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

### **Academic Offences:**

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### **Medical Issues:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)