AMERICAN HISTORY AND LITERATURE (AHL)
Spring 2010

Course teachers:
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Dr. Martyn Bone. (AHL coordinator) Email: bone@hum.ku.dk Office: 24.3.57
Dr. Gregory Stephenson. (Hold C and D) Email: gkstephenson@mail.dk Office: 24.3.32

Class times and locations:
Lectures: Friday, 9-10, auditorium 22.0.11
Seminars:
• Hold A-09: Fri 12-14, classroom 24.3.11 (LD)
• Hold C-09: Fri 10-12, classroom 24.4.07 (GS)
• Hold D-09: Fri 12-14, classroom 24.1.45 (GS)
• Hold E-09: Fri 10-12, classroom 24.1.45 (LD)

Course texts (individual purchase is compulsory; texts are available in Akademisk Boghandel):
• The Heath Anthology of American Literature, concise edition
• Eric Foner, Give Me Liberty!: An American History, second edition (single volume version)
• Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Oxford UP World’s Classics edition

Course format:
The course lasts for twelve weeks in all (excluding holidays). There are eleven lectures and twelve seminar classes. Please note that the final seminar is not accompanied by a formal lecture, but we will meet in the lecture hall as usual to inform you further about the exam.

Exam format:
Ugeopgave, 10-12 pages. The theme of the exam question(s) will relate directly to aspects of the course, and you will be required to answer in a fashion that engages with both American history and literature. Further information to follow!
Absalon:
You **must** check Absalon regularly (**at least** once a week) in order to keep up-to-date with important information about lectures, seminars, and the exam; download course-related files; and so on.

Course structure and theme:

Rather than trying to cover the full range of American history and literature in only twelve weeks, we have organized this introductory course thematically. The overarching theme of the course is “freedom.” As Eric Foner notes in his preface to *Give Me Liberty!*, “No idea is more fundamental to Americans’ sense of themselves as individuals and as a nation than freedom” (p. xxi).

Still, while not every period of American history (or American literature) can be covered in such a brief course, we have tried to ensure that the structure of the course is **broadly chronological**. So, we begin with the Puritans in the seventeenth century, and conclude with U.S history and literature in the first half of the twentieth century.

If you want to fill in the gaps, so to speak, we encourage you to read further in Foner’s *Give Me Liberty!* and *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. The course teachers will be happy to give you guidance regarding further reading (you will get some indicators in the course of lectures and seminars). Bear in mind, too, that this is only an **introductory** course in American studies: aspects of American history and American literature not featured or not fully developed in this course **will** be covered in subsequent **valgfag** and OB courses.
SCHEDULE AND READING

In the weekly schedule below, “primary reading” provides the focus for class discussion. In most cases, primary reading is made up of original “texts”: literature, essays, speeches, sermons, poems, etc. “Secondary reading,” by contrast, is usually constituted by literary-critical or historiographical material: i.e., excerpts from the period overviews and author biographies in the *Heath Anthology*, or chapters/extracts from Foner’s *Give Me Liberty*. While the focus of class discussion will usually be the primary texts, you are expected to read the secondary material too.

*Class 1 (calendar week 5)*
Friday 5 February
Introduction to course

**Short lecture:** “Puritan Literature and Freedom of Religion” (MB)

**Primary reading:**
- Anne Bradstreet, “In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet…” and “Upon the Burning of Our House” (poems, 1678, 1666, in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 195-196 and pp. 197-198 )

**Secondary reading:**
- “Anne Bradstreet, (1612-1672)” in *Heath Anthology*, p. 187

*Class 2 (calendar week 6)*
Friday 12 February

**Lecture:** “Freedom of Belief in Colonial New England” (GS)

**Primary reading:**
- John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (sermon, 1630, in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 149-157)

**Secondary reading:**
- “John Winthrop (1588-1649)” in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 147-149
Class 3 (calendar week 7)
Friday 19 February

Lecture: “’Tis Time to Part: Freedom in the Revolutionary Era” (GS)

Primary reading:
- Thomas Paine, “Common Sense” (in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 455-61)

Secondary reading:

Class 4 (calendar week 8)
Friday 26 February

Lecture: “Social, Spiritual and Individual Freedom in the American Renaissance” (MB)

Primary reading:
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance” (essay, 1841, in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 707-723)

Secondary reading:
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)” in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 689-691
- Henry David Thoreau, 1867-1862 (in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 749-751)
- Eric Foner, “The Transcendentalists” and “Individualism,” from chapter 9 of *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 324-328
Class 5 (calendar week 9)
Friday 5 March

Lecture: “Writing Freedom: Slave Narratives” (LD)

Primary reading:
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 867-931)
- Slave songs: “Deep River”; “Steal Away to Jesus”; “Go Down Moses” (in *Heath Anthology*, pp.1191-1192)

Secondary reading:
- “Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)” (in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 866-867)

Class 6 (calendar week 10)
Friday 12 March


Primary reading:

Secondary reading:
- “Walt Whitman (1819-1892)” (in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 1209-1211)
Class 7 (calendar week 11)
Friday 19 March
Lecture: “Reconstruction and Racial Separation” (GS)
Primary reading:
- Ku Klux Klan Act: [http://education.harpweek.com/KKKHearings/AppendixA.htm](http://education.harpweek.com/KKKHearings/AppendixA.htm)
Secondary reading:

Class 8 (calendar week 12)
Friday 26 March
Lecture: “The Civil War, Reconstruction, and American Literature and Culture, 1865-1900” (MB)
Primary reading:
- Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Secondary reading:

Calendar week 13. **Easter Break.** (No classes).

Class 9 (calendar week 14)
**NB:** Leigh Anne and Martyn will be at a conference in New Orleans on Friday 9 April. As such, Gregory will present Martyn’s lecture this week, and Leigh Anne’s seminars will be rescheduled (probably for the afternoon of Wednesday 14 April). Further information to follow!
Friday 9 April
Lecture: “Twain, Race, and Reconstruction: The *Huckleberry Finn* Debate” (MB)
Primary reading:
• Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Secondary reading:**


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**Class 10 (calendar week 15)**

Friday 16 April

**Lecture:** Gender and Freedom in Late Nineteenth Century American Literature (LD or MB)

**Primary reading:**

• Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (short story, 1892, in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 1597-1609)

• Pauline Hopkins, “A Dash for Liberty” (short story, 1901, in *Heath Anthology*, pp. 1656-1661)

**Secondary reading:**

• “Circumstances and Literary Achievements of Women,” *Heath Anthology*, pp. 1332-1334;
  “Circumstances and Literary Achievements of African Americans,” *Heath Anthology*, pp. 1334-1338;
  “Developments in Women’s Writing,” *Heath Anthology*, p. 1619


• “Pauline Hopkins,” *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, pp. 1655-1656


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**Class 11 (calendar week 16)**

Friday 23 April

**Lecture:** “America, Freedom and the World” (GS)

**Primary reading:**

• President Woodrow Wilson’s War Message, 1917
  [http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1917/wilswarm.html](http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1917/wilswarm.html)

• George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” 1947

• Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964
Secondary reading:

Calendar week 17. **Great Prayer Day.** (No classes).

*Class 12 (calendar week 18)*

**NB:** Leigh Anne and Martyn are attending a conference at Cambridge University on Friday 7 May. Leigh Anne’s seminar classes will be rescheduled (probably for the afternoon of Wednesday 5 May). Further information to follow!

Friday 7 May

No lecture or seminars this week but we will meet in the lecture hall at the usual time to talk with you about the exam.

Primary reading:

Secondary reading: