SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Outline

ENG 215-American Literature I                                                                Fall 2009
Section 91845 T/TH 9:30-10:45                                                               Professor  Dan Giancola,


NATURE OF THE COURSE: A study of primary trends and themes in literature of American writers
from the Colonial Period through the Civil War. Works of such writers as Franklin, Irving, Poe, Emerson,
Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman, and Dickinson are discussed, along with African-American
contributions from Wheatley and Douglass, among others.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE COURSE: Careful preparation of all assigned readings
is crucial. Participation in class discussions is mandatory. Surprise quizzes may be given if I feel the class
is not doing the reading. Every week a one-page (250 typed words) reaction paper will be required (there
will be a total of 13). One research paper between 8-10 pages will be due on December 1st.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of EN 215, American Literature I, the student will be able to

1. Demonstrate familiarity with some of the works of the major American writers from the
   Colonial Period to the beginning of the Civil War.
2. Identify the ways in which historical, political, religious, and philosophical forces help shape
   the literature of this period.
3. Identify and discuss major literary movements, themes, trends, and styles and distinguish the
   primary literary movements of this era.
4. Discuss the literature of this period as a reflection of colonization, agrarianism, Manifest
   Destiny, Puritan and Calvinist thought, Transcendentalism, a burgeoning American identity,
   and other relevant 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-Century philosophies and movements.
5. Analyze and interpret the literature studied through written and /or oral presentations that
   demonstrate
   a. a focused response appropriate to the assignment;
   b. a clear statement of student’s purpose (thesis);
   c. a coherent organization appropriate to the student’s thesis;
   d. pertinent textual details and excerpts supporting or illustrating the thesis.

GRADING: Research Paper—40%; Weekly Responses—40%; Homework/Class Participation—20%.
LATE RESEARCH PAPERS WILL BE DOCKED ONE FULL LETTER GRADE; NO PAPER WILL BE
ACCEPTED AFTER TWO CLASSES. LATE WEEKLY RESPONSES WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED
ONE CLASS AFTER THEY ARE DUE. Please, no sleeping in class; you may not call, text, or tweet
anyone during class time.. A pattern of tardiness will result in a diminution of your grade.

ATTENDANCE: Students are permitted to miss three (3) classes without penalty. After three absences, a
student may be dropped from the class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out the work
that was assigned.

My office hours are posted on my office door (Orient-131). My Office telephone number is 548-3578, and
my e-mail address is giancod@sunysuffolk.edu.