

Fall 8-15-2011

ENG 5008-001: Colonial American Literature: The Body Politic

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English 5008 Section 001
Colonial American Literature: The Body Politic
Fall, 2011

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TEXTS

Abrams, ed. *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol. I
Lauter, ed. *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. I

REQUIREMENTS

Serious, close reading for each seminar session
Willingness to contribute to class discussion regularly
One short (5 pages) bibliographic essay
One research paper (15-20 pages) due during Finals Week

AND FINALLY . . .

We will read and discuss the primary texts during class time, but I expect you to familiarize yourselves with secondary sources—books, articles, etc—as we move along through the term. I will always be happy to suggest titles, books, or ideas with you. I also expect you to do your own research in the library as well.

Written English of the 17th and 18th centuries shares with Shakespeare's English than with our own 21st century American English. These texts—some in translation—will challenge us with a significant language barrier from time to time. In other words, this is often difficult reading. If you let me know, we can slow down, go back, or change direction. I will always be happy to help you along the way.

I hope you will think of this seminar as an ongoing discussion among yourselves, me, and the texts we read. We are a community of scholars for the term, so the more questions we ask (and there are no inappropriate questions here), the more rewarding this material will be for all of us.

English 5008/001
Colonial American Literature: The Body Politic
Tentative Schedule

Aug	23	Introduction
	30	Rousseau, <i>A Discourse on Political Economy</i>
Sept	06	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> ; English lit <i>passim</i>
	13	John Smith
	20	John Winthrop, William Bradford
	27	Anne Bradstreet/Edward Taylor
Oct	04	Samuel Sewell/Cotton Mather
	11	Samson Occom/Olaudah Equiano
	18	Mary Rowlandson
	25	William Byrd/Jonathan Edwards
Nov	01	Benjamin Franklin
	08	Jupiter Hammon/Phillis Wheatley/Thomas Jefferson
	15	TBA
	22	NO CLASS
	29	John Woolman/Elizabeth Ashbridge/Judith Sargent Murray
Dec	06	TBA