Fall 8-15-2011

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

P.A. Boswell
Eastern Illinois University

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

P.A. Boswell
Office: 3566 Coleman Hall
Phone: 581-6975
Email: paboswell@eiu.edu
Office hours: T, R 2-3:30 pm and by appointment

TEXTS


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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Rousseau, <em>A Discourse on Political Economy</em></td>
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<td>Sept 06</td>
<td>Thomas Hobbes, <em>Levianthan</em>; English lit <em>passim</em></td>
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<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>John Smith</td>
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<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>John Winthrop, William Bradford</td>
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<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>Anne Bradstreet/Edward Taylor</td>
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<td>Oct 04</td>
<td>Samuel Sewell/Cotton Mather</td>
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<td>Samson Occom/Olaudah Equiano</td>
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<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Mary Rowlandson</td>
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<td>Jupiter Hammon/Phillis Wheatley/Thomas Jefferson</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
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<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>John Woolman/Elizabeth Ashbridge/Judith Sargent Murray</td>
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<td>Dec 06</td>
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