*Studies in American Literature*: **Final Exam**: Fall 2017 Semester- Merriam

This Final Exam will consist of two parts.

**For Part One**, I would like you to select one piece of writing from the major pieces that you have done for this class over the course of this semester. Your goal will be to improve this one particular piece so that you can call it the best piece of writing that you produced for this class. In addition to the revised piece, you will also need to complete a cover letter and a questionnaire about this course.

You’ll be able to work on Part One in the 3rd floor Computer Lab on Wednesday, January 10. If you need additional time to complete this part of the final exam, you will have to complete it at home. **You must turn this part of the final in to me on or before Tuesday, January 16.**

It will be worth 60 points (or 60% of the Final Exam Grade)

**For Part Two**, you will be asked to write a five paragraph essay that relates to the overall theme of this course- the pursuit of the American Dream.

You’ll complete this part of the Final Exam during the A Block Final Exam period on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

It will be worth 40 points (or 40% of the Final Exam Grade)

**For Part One:**

This semester you have been asked to complete the following major writing assignments:

1. An essay on *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
2. A paper about an additional Hawthorne short story you read (Honors students)
3. *The Crucible* playbill
4. An essay about *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*Here is what I would like you to do:*

Choose one of those pieces, and take the time to edit and revise it so that the end result is the most superb piece of writing you have ever done.

*Here is what you must turn in to me:*

1. A **cover letter** explaining why you chose to revise this piece. In this letter you must explain what the assignment was, why you chose to revise this particular piece and not any of the others in your portfolio, and a description of the changes you made to the original. **(Worth 10 points)**
2. A copy of the **original graded assignment** **(Worth 5 points)-** *If I graded your hard copy of this writing assignment- please include that. If I graded the assignment on Turnitin, please print that out for me (Make sure you print the graded essay and not the original that you submitted!)*
3. The **revised piece with significant changes that were made to the original**. (Note- you have to do more than just edit- Editing is fixing spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. In addition to that you must also revise- reorganize your thoughts, add and subtract from the paper, include more evidence from the text in support of your thesis, introduce your quotes, provide analysis, etc.). *You must highlight the changes that you made to the revised version so that they stand out for me!* **(Worth 30 points)**
4. **A completed questionnaire** about your experiences and feedback for this course **(Worth 15 points)**

Please staple A., B., C. and D. together and place it inside your Portfolio. After you complete Part Two of the Final Exam on Tuesday, January 16, that will go into your Portfolio as well. The two parts of the Final Exam together are worth 20% of your final grade for the semester.

If you are thinking about what you might write about for the essay in Part Two, here is a list of what we read in this class this semester:

Novels:

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Play:

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Short Stories:

“Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” by Washington Irving

“The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe

Nonfiction:

Excerpts from works by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CLASS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Merriam: *Studies in American Literature Final Exam*: Fall 2017 Semester

1. Questionnaire (15 points)

Dear Studies in American Literature student,

 As our semester comes to an end, I am asking you to take some time to think about what you have read and what you have written for this class. This is an opportunity for you to really reflect on what you have learned, what you enjoyed about this class, what you didn’t like, and about your growth as an English student. I also appreciate hearing your feedback about this course as I am constantly thinking about ways to improve my teaching of it. I would love you hear your honest opinions about these last twenty school weeks that we have spent together.

Please respond to ALL Questions!

1. We read a combination of short stories, nonfiction essays, novels, and plays this semester. Which piece was your favorite and why? (You may include any of the Honors Reading Assignments for this as well)
2. Which of the literary pieces that you read was your least favorite and why?
3. You will have spent almost five months in this class. If you had to choose, which day up to this point would be your very favorite one and why?
4. And which day would you consider to be your worst day in this class, and why?
5. You were able to watch a fair number of movie adaptations and documentaries over the course of the semester. Which one was your favorite and why?
6. Do you feel that there is anything we did/you learned in this class that will stay with you (and possibly even help you) as you move on to the next phase of your life? Please tell me what that is!
7. You completed three or four major writing assignments for this class this semester (essays on *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* and a Hawthorne short story). Which of those writing pieces are you most proud of and why?
8. What are your personal thoughts about peer-editing? Have you had much experience with that in other classes? Would you have found that helpful this semester? In your opinion, should I find a way to work that into the schedule next time I teach this course?
9. Reflect honestly on the effort you put in to your coursework this semester.
10. What did you do well as a student taking American Literature? What were your areas of strength?
11. In which area(s) do you feel you could have improved?
12. I will be teaching this course again next year. I am always thinking critically about how I teach this course and looking for ways to improve it. Please make a suggestion for me as to something I can change to make this a better class for students and for myself. Thank you!