

AMERICAN LITERATURE II – THE 19TH CENTURY
(LITERATURA AMERICANA II / LEG 345)
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2010 – II – REDUCED GUIDELINES

I. COURSE PROGRAM

1. TECHNICAL DATA
2. THE COURSE AND ITS AIMS

II. METHODOLOGY

3. TWO TYPES OF CLASSES: LECTURES AND (MINI) SEMINARS
4. THE CLASS MATERIALS: SYLLABUS, GUIDELINES, BOOKLET, WEBSITE AND BLOGS
5. STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES: INDIVIDUAL AND IN GROUP

III. THE ACTIVITIES ONE BY ONE

6. THE BLOGS AND ITS NETWORK (B=1,0)
7. THE CLASS REPORTS (R₁=R₂=1,0)
8. **SEMINARS (S=4,0)**

There will be three seminars this semester. Two are *mini-seminars*, in the format of last year's *reading classes*, that is, with all groups sharing one single class and theme, and a *full seminar* in a more traditional format. The general guidelines for both kinds of seminars are:

- they might be presented in English or in Portuguese: the choice is up to each group;
- there should be no discrimination against groups presenting in either one of the languages;
- handout to the class are not compulsory but work as a courtesy and
- the grade of the group will be granted only to the students present during the full class

See now the specific rules.

- 8.2. **THE MINI-SEMINARS (S₁= S₅=1,0): HISTORICAL CONTEXT (S₁) AND MARK TWAIN (S₅)**

All groups will have to prepare the same texts in advance (6 short chapters). On the day of the presentation, a raffle at the beginning of the class will split the chapters among the groups. The groups will then have 15 minutes to discuss the selected chapter, prior to the presentation, which should last for 10-15 minutes. The professor will raffle the orator too.

A. NO NEED FOR MEETINGS AFTER CLASS!

There is no need for groups meeting after class: discussions happen during class hours! However, it is advisable that group members share e-mails and phone numbers to exchange ideas and information.

B. ROUTINES FOR MINI-SEMINARS, DURING THE WEEK AND PRIOR TO PRESENTATION

- individual reading of the six chapters at home and summary of main topics ("fichamento")
- COMPILATION OF a VOCABULARY LIST, if necessary

C. ROUTINES FOR THE PRESENTATION DAY: THE GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

This is the moment when the group gathers to discuss their individual summaries ("fichamentos") to merge their ideas/ conclusions and vocab lists. The result of this discussion is to be presented by the GROUP ORATOR. Therefore it's very important that the orator has the support of the whole group. The grade is COLLECTIVE and not the sole responsibility of the orator.

D. THE PRESENTATION: ORATORS IN ACTION (6 X 10-15 MINS=60-90 MINUTES)

Orators will come to the front stage, one at a time, and present their group's collective conclusions. After that, they should allow a 2 minute gap for the Professor to assess their performance and to add comments. (Vocab lists may be written on the board by other members of the group)

- 8.3. **THE FULL SEMINAR (S_{2,4}=2,0): BOSTON BRAHMINS, BLACKS IN AMERICA AND OFF-THE-CANON**

For the *full seminar*, two groups will share the same class day and general theme. The specific subjects will be selected through a raffle on week 8. Basic directions for these seminars are:

- A. THE TWO SELECTED GROUPS WILL HAVE 40-50 MINUTES EACH TO DELIVER THEIR WORK;
- B. THE GROUPS WILL HAVE THEIR PRESENTATIONS PREPARED IN ADVANCE
- C. ALL GROUP MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING

Orators of previous seminars might be spared of speech, if they wish, but not of attendance.

D. GROUPS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOOKING EXTRA CLASS RESOURCES, IF THEY WISH TO USE PROJECTORS, AUDIO RECORDERS, AND THE LIKE

9. THE ESSAYS (E=3,0)