# ELIT 48A

# American Literature: Beginnings to 1865

# Course Information Sheet

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| **Instructor:** Becky Roberts **Email and Website**: robertsbecky@fhda.edu <http://faculty.deanza.fhda.edu/robertsbecky> | **Phone**: (408) 864-5764 **Office**: F11-E **Hours**: MW 2:50-3:50, TTH 12:20-1:20 |

**Prerequisite**: Eligibility for EWRT 1A

**Course Description:**

ELIT 48A covers a vast sweep of tumultuous historical, literary and cultural change, from the first contacts between Europeans and natives in the Americas, to the emergence of transcendentalism, American literary romanticism and the voices of the anti-slavery and women’s rights movements. To engage these texts is to travel across the gulf of time and enter different ways of thinking and feeling. I invite you to see through their eyes and recognize that their world was very different than ours and at the same times offers us crucial insights into who we are now and how we might define (or redefine) American literature.

**Required Materials:** Available at De Anza bookstore

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature: Beginnings to 1865 (Shorter 9th Edition)*

**Course Goals:**

* Examine literary works of this period from a range of ethnic, gender, cultural, national, and global perspectives
* Demonstrate an understanding of the social and historical contexts as well as prevailing interpretive approaches to literary works in this period
* Analyze literary works from multiple, clearly defined critical perspectives
* Appreciate the contribution of literary works from this period to American culture
* Read with pleasure and analytical delight
* Articulate personal as well as analytical relation to course texts
* Participate enthusiastically in a diverse community of readers

**Course Requirements:**

* Keep up with the reading and participate fully in class discussions and activities
* Write three exams, several in-class quizzes and 2 essays
* Write a supplemental research response paper and share these findings with the class

### Participation: Silence and Stow All Electronic Devices

Class discussion gives you the opportunity to check your understanding, develop your ideas, and expand your perspectives by listening to others. Active, self-initiated contribution to discussion is very important to your success and your grade in the class. Just being physically present will not earn a good grade for participation. You must volunteer ideas and/or questions in discussion at least once a week. If you are a quiet student, this class requires you to break out of your comfort zone and become more engaged. Likewise, those who always talk in discussion need to be make room for others. I will also work toward making the class the best possible learning environment and I will honor De Anza’s mutual respect policy.

**Attendance:** Please be on time for class and stay for the whole meeting. Late arrivals (more than 5 minutes late) and early departures will count as half of an absence. If you miss more than 3 meetings or the equivalent before the drop deadline, you may be dropped from the course. If your absences total 4 or more after the drop deadline, you will receive a grade, but it will reflect a large penalty in participation.

**Late work:** Exams must be taken on the day they are listed except under extreme circumstances beyond your control. I will accept late essays or homework for up to one week after the due date with a letter grade deduction. **Each quiz will be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up**. However, one quiz will be dropped (meaning the lowest score is not counted against you). I do not accept student work via email unless I have given you prior approval and for extenuating circumstances.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating include copying someone else’s test or homework, lifting sentences from someone else without quoting (whether the source is published or not) and any small or large act of academic forgery in the work that you submit as your own effort in this class. The penalty is, at minimum, a “0” on that assignment, and an “F” for the course is very likely. In addition, I must report the incident to the dean of students, who may expel habitual cheaters. I will use Turnitin.com as needed.

**Grading:**

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| Exam 1Exam 2Exam 38 Quizzes (20 each; one dropped) 1 short essay1 longer essaysupplemental researchParticipation **Total possible points** | 1201201001408012050120**850** | A Above 93% A- 90-92% B+ 87-89% B 83-86%B- 80-82% C+ 77-79% C 70-76% D 60-69%F Below 60% |

Student Resources: I enjoy helping students, so please visit my office hours or email me. However, I must limit my email responses to one paragraph of your essay, so if you want help with your whole paper, you need to come to my office. Drop-in and weekly tutoring is available in the Writing and Reading Center ATC 309. 408 864-5840, <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/writing-reading-center>.

**Equal Opportunity:** If you need an academic accommodation for any disability, such as vision, hearing, orthopedic, learning disabilities, psychological or other medical conditions, you should discuss this with me within the first week of school. I am happy to work with you to meet your needs.