

English Midterm Review

The Puritan Beginnings

- **Historical Perspectives / Social Geography**
 - What this country meant, selling this land with biblical allusions
- **Columbus**

The letters

 - He documented his existence and documented where his ships went in a log/journal.
 - That is why is credited with discovering the New World, and why multiple other explorers who were definitely here before Columbus weren't given credit for the discovery
- **John Smith**

from... The General History

 - Important historical figure and writer, **documentarian/essayist/poet** (wrote in ornate language)
 - His writing was important because he was
 - The first man to **promote** permanent settlement of **America**.
 - **The first real good history of what goes on in America - it is accurate**
 - Exporting the idea of opportunity - debunked the myth that Europeans thought that America was a wilderness and that we were primitive barbarian beating one another.
 - He said that America is a really great place and tried to get people to come over.
 - The other remarkable thing about his writing is that it was not entirely self serving, but it was very easy to include that his stuff **was propagandist, trying to sell himself**
 - This was an early form of capitalism.
- **William Bradford**

from... Of Plymouth Plantation

 - Documentarian/essayist/poet
 - Gives us factual historical accounts of the landings that took place in America -first tourist thing that happened
 - Plain (simple) language
- **Anne Bradstreet**

Selected poems

 - First female poet
 - Gives us glimpse into what it was like to be a women in Puritan society - a lot of our inferences about women in the New World at this time come from her poetry
 - What she tells us about women /what was considered to be appropriate:

- She had the qualities of an Ideal Puritan mother/wife
 - Ideal Puritan wife characteristics
 - Love husband
 - Nurture kids
 - Modest
 - Pious
 - Strong
 - Direct
 - Intelligent
 - Unwilling to be seen or heard in public
 - ***Weaned affections – don't fall in love with possessions, because you never owned them to begin with so don't start to accumulate them and love them, and don't convince yourself that you can't live without them because eventually they will go away. You have to wean yourself to them just like a mother would wean a child, being wholly dependent on her. You can't be dependent on your things, they are not yours. A concept that comes out of Bradstreet's poetry**
 - **Jonathan Edwards**
 - “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
 - Wrote in the ornate style
 - Gave sermons that were scaring people into obedience
 - He scared them by saying that the only reason you are here is because God has decided to keep you here. You are dangling over the fiery pits of hell and the only thing that is holding you is the little tiny spider web.
 - Gave us an example of an angry Puritan speech – They call him *Fire and Brimstone*
- The Revolutionary Period**
- **Historical Perspectives / Social Geography**
 - Social Geography – how society integrates into the physical features of the land. – **How geography influences society.** This is so important early on for America because their entire perception of the world is influenced by their lifestyle.
 - **Literature is just a reflection of society**
 - the needs
 - the fears
 - the desires
 - **Benjamin Franklin**
 - from... The Autobiography*
 - Excerpts from Poor Richard's Almanac
 - **Aphorisms – A short, economic truthful sayings** - come out of Almanac, from Franklin we get the Aphorism style
 - With Franklin, it was all about the economy of thoughts and ideas.
 - We get a shift from religious to secular – the **secular definition of sin** Franklin changes into a **mistake**.

- Goes from: “I sin, I need to be converted” to “ I made a mistake and I need to learn/grow from it.
 - That whole process find its roots in our judicial system – certain ideas such as “I sinned, I need to be converted” our judicial system says, “I committed a crime, I need to be rehabilitated.”
- **Thomas Jefferson**
The Declaration of Independence
 - Was a **Linguistic Nationalist** – the idea of promoting and changing a nations language for politics.
 - Creates words that are purely American
 - With his efforts created a document (D of I) that has come to be known as purely American.
 - **Declaration of Independence was high wire act (risky) because it was a big deal** that they were going to try to be independent from Britain.
 - This had never been done before.
 - **2/3 of the country did not support it**
 - **1/3 of the country did support it**
 - **Calling for independence** from King George - argument was against the king **as an individual, not against Britain**. They kept on saying in document that the king was a tyrant.
 - The **unifying principle** of the **D of I** – “**We**” the people
- **Washington Irving**
Rip Van Winkle
 - In the 19th Century, we talked about the
 - loss of nature
 - person finding himself alone in nature
 - dealt with the passage of time – how quickly change occurs
- **James Fennimore Cooper**
from... The Prairie
 - Wrote the Leatherstocking Tales – different stages of Natty Bumppo’s life – Pathfinder, Deerslayer, all the way to the end with The Last of the Mohicans.
- **William Cullen Bryant**
“Thanatopsis”
 - Was a **secular definition of death** – uses nature to help explain death.
- **Alexis de Tocqueville**
from... Democracy in America
 - Observations:
 - **Observed that Americans are always in motion – constant restlessness**
 - **Idea of Generosity**

The Nineteenth Century
Historical Perspectives / Social Geography

- **Transcendentalism**
 - **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
Transcendentalism
“Self-Reliance”, “Nature”
 - **Henry David Thoreau**
from... Walden
“Civil Disobedience”
 - Essayists of Consciousness
 - Call for individual freedom – being alone in the wilderness
 - There is a spirit that moves us beyond the surface of things
 - Call for nature
- **Darker Side of the 19th Century**
 - **Edgar Allen Poe**
“The Fall of the House of Usher”
“The Cask of Amontillado”
 - Panic - sheer hysteria that surfaces in watching someone be buried alive
 - **Uncommon for people to eat in Poe’s stories – because eating sustains and promotes life**
 - **Idea:** You can’t eradicate **evil** by reasoning, forcing, giving it away – **its always there**
 - **Man’s impulse is to destroy one another**
 - Literary Style – Master at the atmospherics in his poetry and prose.
 - Atmospherics – giving you vivid mental imagery of the supernatural world.
 - **Herman Melville**
“Bartleby the Scrivener”
 - **Nathaniel Hawthorne**
** The Scarlet Letter – **Focus on this**

VOCABULARY/GRAMMAR

VOCABULARY

Word	Definition	Synonyms
abate	(of something perceived as hostile, threatening, or negative) become less intense or widespread	subside, die down, lessen
abnegate	renounce or reject (something desired or valuable)	decline, reject
abstruse	difficult to understand; obscure	obscure, difficult, puzzling
acerbic	(esp. of a comment or style of speaking) sharp and forthright	sharp, sarcastic
acrimonious	(typically of speech or a debate)	bitter, angry

	angry and bitter	
adroit	clever or skillful in using the hands or mind	skillful, clever
affable	friendly, good-natured, or easy to talk to	friendly, nice
alacrity	brisk and cheerful readiness	eagerness, readiness
ameliorate	make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better	improve, make better
amenable	(of a person) open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled	cooperative, controllable, persuadable
amnesty	an official pardon for people who have been convicted of political offenses	pardon, reprieve
anachronism	a thing belonging or appropriate to a period other than that in which it exists, esp. a thing that is conspicuously old-fashioned	out of date
anomaly	something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected	oddity, abnormality
apathy	lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern	lack of interest, lack of enthusiasm, lack of concern
aphorism	a pithy observation that contains a general truth, such as, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."	saying, proverb
apotheosis	the highest point in the development of something; culmination or climax - pot - top	deification (god-like), saint
appease	To soothe; to pacify by giving in to	placate (give in to), soothe
arbitrary	based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system	random
arcane	understood by few; mysterious or secret	mysterious, secret
arduous	involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring (hard)	difficult, hard
artifice	clever or cunning devices or expedients, esp. as used to trick or	trickery, deception

	deceive others - artificial	
assuage	make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense	relieve, reduce
austere	severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance (severe)	severe, strict
autonomous	(of a country or region) having self-government, at least to a significant degree (having its own laws)	self-governing, independent
axiom	a statement or proposition that is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true	accepted truth
banal	so lacking in originality as to be obvious and boring	clichéd, overused, dull
belabor	argue or elaborate (a subject) in excessive detail	overelaborate, place too much emphasis on
bemused	puzzle, confuse, or bewilder (someone)	bewildered, confused, puzzled
blithe	showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper	casual, indifferent
bucolic	of or relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside and country life	rural, countryside
cadence	a modulation or inflection of the voice - caer-to fall	intonation, inflection
capitulate	cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; surrender capitalize tu late	surrender, give up
capricious	given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior extrime	changeable, unpredictable, temperamental
castigate	verbal reprimand (someone) severely	reprimand
catharsis	the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions. therapy	emotional release, venting
caustic	able to burn or corrode organic tissue by chemical action -	corrosive, acid, able to burn

	Holocaust	
chastise	verbal or physical rebuke or reprimand severely	scold, reprimand
choleric	bad-tempered or irritable.	bad-tempered, irritable
circumspect	wary and unwilling to take risks	cautious, wary
cogent	(of an argument or case) clear, logical, and convincing.	convincing, logical, coherent, clear
colloquial	(of language) used in ordinary or familiar conversation; not formal or literary.	slang
complicity	the state of being involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing	collusion, collaboration on a crime
conciliatory	intended or likely to placate or pacify	pacifying
conducive	making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible	favorable to
conjecture	an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information	guesswork, inference
contrite	feeling or expressing remorse or penitence; affected by guilt	repentant, sorry
copious	abundant in supply or quantity	abundant, many
cursory	hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed	hasty, rushed
dearth	a scarcity or lack of something	lack, scarcity
debauchery	excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures. (bad) chery sundae	wickedness, sinfulness, immorality
deleterious	causing harm or damage	harmful, damaging
delineate	describe or portray (something) precisely	describe, specify
depravity	moral corruption	corruption, immorality
derogatory	showing a critical or disrespectful attitude	disrespectful, critical
despondent	in low spirits from loss of hope or courage. pond of tears	discouraged
desultory	lacking a plan, purpose, or	casual, half-hearted

	enthusiasm (result “awry”)	
digress	leave the main subject temporarily in speech or writing	get off the subject
disseminate	spread or disperse (something, esp. information) widely	spread, disperse
dogmatic	inclined to lay down principles as incontrovertibly true	opinionated, adamant

GRAMMAR

There will be 5 diagrams on the midterm. Also, there will be fill in the blank for parts of speech. Look over the **Grammar Review Packet** and use it as practice as well.