**COLQ 2991: Emerson & Thoreau: American Transcendentalists**

**TR 9:30-10:45 CRN 394**

**Dr. Edward J. Whitelock**

**Spring 2019**

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***Required Texts***:

* *The Essential Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, Edited by Brooks Atkinson for the Modern Library, ISBN 978-0-679-78322-0
* *Walden & Other Writings*, Henry David Thoreau, Edited by Brooks Atkinson for the Modern Library, ISBN 978-0-679-78334-3

***Supplemental Text:*** [*Gordon State College Handbook*](http://www.gordonstate.edu/successcenter/writing-handbook.html), Wesley Venus and Mark King, electronic copy:

***Course Description***: A course intended for students to explore and examine the ideal question of the whole person through writing and discussion of various texts in a seminar format.

***Course Objectives***: A colloquium course fulfills the critical thinking skills element of the core curriculum of the University System of Georgia and is applicable to Area B. Students completing a colloquia course will demonstrate the ability to analyze, organize, and synthesize thought material into a coherent and convincing presentation of ideas.

***Course Grading:***

Grade breakdowns for your individual assignments and your semester grade are: 90-100% is an A; 80-89% is a B; 70-79% is a C; 60-69% is a D; 59% and below is an F. (Note: Turnitin’s automatic grade calculation is not necessarily correct during semester’s progress)

***Course Requirements:***

* Reading Journal: 50%
* Oral Presentation: 10%
* Midterm: Definition Essay: 20%
* Final: “And” Essay: 20%

**Reading Journal:**  For each week’s reading assignment, you will compose a minimum 400-word response defining and engaging with a primary theme treated therein.

* Responses due to turnitin.com by class time Tuesday (9:30 a.m.) each week (excepting holidays)

**Oral Presentation:** Lead 10 minute discussion on Transcendentalist perspective on a contemporary issue.

The steps for this assignment:

1. Identify problem and summarize contemporary perspective[s]
2. Explain how Transcendentalist perspective would be different or similar offering a combination of at least 3 reasons and references from readings
3. Be prepared to answer questions from class

* You should present your ideas for 3 to 5 minutes, then be prepared to answer questions and/or lead further discussion for another 5 minutes.
* Potential topics could include: prayer in school, gun control, gay marriage, global warming, gender identity, the pledge of allegiance, the “war on Christmas,” the Confederate flag, Columbus Day, voting, or identify one of your own.
* No repeat topics allowed.

**Midterm: Definition Essay:** For this minimum 750 word essay, you will choose a term of importance to the Transcendentalists and provide a comprehensive definition emphasizing the distinct characteristics of the Transcendentalist definition that differentiate the idea from the mass of thought.

* Choose from one of the following: nature, consciousness, tradition, self-reliance, god, religion, civic responsibility, others tba.

**Final: “And” Essay:** For this minimum1,250 word essay, you will examine a major work or theme in Emerson or Thoreau in comparison to how that theme is treated by a writer who influenced, was contemporary to, or who followed them. This will be the major work of critical scholarship for this course. You will compare/contrast the two writers on a common theme.

*Influences:* *Contemporaries:* Followers:

Johann Gottfried Herder Theodor Parker Annie Dillard

Friedrich Schleiermacher Orestes Brownson Robert Pirsig

Immanuel Kant Bronson Alcott Martin Luther King, Jr.

David Hume Margaret Fuller Wendell Berry

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel Frederick Douglass James Baldwin

Samuel Taylor Coleridge Charles Darwin Edward O. Wilson

William Wordsworth Nathaniel Hawthorne Allen Ginsburg

Thomas Carlyle Walt Whitman Paulo Friere

***Paper Format:*** all written assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com and must be written in standard, 12-point font, with one-inch margins. Reading responses should be single-spaced; other assignments should be double-spaced. The upper left corner of the page should look like this:

*Your name*

*Dr. Whitelock*

*Assignment tag*

*Date*

Double-return after date and center title, if using one, then, hit single-return, tab for paragraph, and begin body of text. If not using title, double-return after date, tab for paragraph, then begin.

***Attendance***: I take roll call at the start of each class. If you are present when your name is called, you will be marked present; if you are not present when your name is called, you will be marked absent. If you are late to class and miss roll call, it is your responsibility to let me know that you were present after the class has ended. If you do not do so, you will remain marked as absent. I reserve the right to charge the habitually tardy with absences. *A student compiling too many absences will probably fail this course.*

***Deadlines:*** Since college work is considered the preparation of adults for “real world” scenarios, I maintain and uphold strict deadlines. In the job world, where so much is on the line, few excuses for missing deadlines are accepted. For this class, test and assignment deadlines are absolute and inflexible, except only in the case of true personal or family emergencies (upon my discretion; documentation required). If you have an upcoming responsibility that will take you out of class on the day of a test or deadline, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with me to take care of the assignment *before* your anticipated absence. Failure to meet a deadline without prior approval will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question. No late homework assignments will be accepted.

***Technological Difficulties:*** Computer viruses, broken printers, lost USBs, incompatible files, vindictive exes, ninja squirrels, and the like are not acceptable excuses for missing a deadline. All of the due-dates for our major assignments are listed on this syllabus: you should plan and complete your work in a timely manner in such a way that technical difficulties do not compromise your ability to meet a deadline. And again, no late homework assignments will be accepted.

***Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty***: Plagiarism is the willful representation of another’s work as your own. Wholesale plagiarism is the attempt to pass off a complete paper composed by another person as your own; if caught committing wholesale plagiarism you will fail this course. Patchwork plagiarism is the attempt to incorporate elements (exact quotes or ideas) of another’s work into your own without proper attribution; if caught committing this form of plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment. There are numerous other behaviors that fall under the umbrella of academic dishonesty, including collusion, repeat submission (yes, you can plagiarize yourself!), and fabrication or misrepresentation of source material. Committing any of these acts will result in some form of penalty, from a point/grade deduction to outright failing the related assignment, depending upon egregiousness.

***Mature content note:***This course may contain mature or controversial content or language. To be asked to discuss or to develop an understanding of a controversial perspective that may contradict one’s own personal belief is not indoctrination into that perspective. Your enrollment in this course constitutes your acceptance of these sometimes controversial elements as topics for academic discussion.

***Title IX***: Gordon State College is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. All faculty members at Gordon State College are mandated reporters. Any student reporting any type of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking must be made aware that any report made to a faculty member under the provisions of Title IX will be reported to the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Deputy Coordinator. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you must contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services office, Room 212, Student Life Center. The licensed counselors in the Counseling Office are able to provide confidential support.

Gordon State College does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions. Students seeking accommodations on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services regarding the process of documenting pregnancy related issues and being approved for accommodations, including pregnancy related absences as defined under Title IX.

***ADA and 504:*** If you have a documented disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and/or physical accessibility. The Counseling and Accessibility Services office located in the Student Center, Room 212 can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GSC programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, contact Counseling and Accessibility Services at 678-359-5585.

***Religious Holidays***: Gordon State College acknowledges that the academic calendar can sometimes conflict with major holidays from among our diverse religious traditions. If a student must miss class due to the observance of a religious holiday, that absence may be excused. To be excused, the student must inform his/her instructors before the absence and make alternate arrangements for any work due at the time of the absence. An excused absence for the observance of a religious holiday does not excuse student from responsibility for required course work.

***Harry’s House Food Bank:*** The mission of Harry’s House is to distribute food and toiletries to students to alleviate stress associated with short term food insecurity and other financial constraints in order to effectively reduce hunger and support educational success.

<https://www.gordonstate.edu/harrys-house/index.html>

**Turnitin.com**

By taking this course, you agree that all required papers may be subject to submission of textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site http://www.turnitin.com/static/usage.html. According to the Family Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education, your papers are education records within the meaning of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html). Education records may not be disclosed to third parties in a form that identifies you without your consent. Since Turnitin.com is a third party, you must choose one of the two ways below (not both) to submit papers to Turnitin.com in order to comply with FERPA.

1. YOU CONSENT TO DISCLOSE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION TURNITIN.COM

You may consent to release your personal identification to Turnitin.com by establishing an account and uploading your paper. If you do not already have a Turnitin.com account, go to http://www.turnitin.com, click the “New Users” link in the upper right, and follow the instructions to create your student account. When you have an ID, add this class. **The class ID is 20046668 and the password is Concord2**

OR

2. YOU DO NOT CONSENT TO DISCLOSE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION TO TURNITIN.COM

If you choose not to consent to release your personal identification to Turnitin.com, you must send your paper to your instructor by email as an electronic attachment that can be opened by Microsoft Word, by the deadline given on the syllabus. Your identifying information will be removed and the paper uploaded to Turnitin.com for you. Because your paper will not be in a Turnitin.com account that is accessible to you, you will not be able to view your report on-line. Instead, after the deadline has passed and all papers have been processed by Turnitin.com, your instructor will email an electronic copy of your paper’s report to you. Your paper will be processed by Turnitin.com whichever option you choose. The different options simply determine how the paper is submitted to Turnitin.com whether the paper has your name on it, and how you receive the Turnitin.com report. Please note that in Turnitin.com there is a “test upload” assignment area for your paper. Because test uploads are not required or graded, and need not be a sample of your own work, they are not “education records.”

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you upload an early draft of your paper to the test upload assignment, and then upload the final assignment, the final originality report will show that a substantial part of your paper is identical to your draft. That is expected.

You can read more about Turnitin.com here: http://www.turnitin.com

**Tentative Semester Outline**

Introduction to course: January 10

Week One: Jan. 14-18

Week Two: Jan. 21 - 25

Read Emerson: *Nature*

Week Three: Jan. 28 – Feb. 1

Read Emerson: “The American Scholar” and “An Address”

Week Four: Feb. 4 - 8

Read Emerson: “Self-Reliance,” “Spiritual Laws,” “The Over-Soul,” and “Circles”

Week Five: Feb. 11 - 15

Read Emerson: “Friendship,” “The Poet,” “Experience,” and “Politics”

Week Six: Feb. 18 - 22

Read Thoreau: “Resistance to Civil Government”

Week Seven: Feb. 25 – March 1: **Midterm due**

Read Thoreau: Walden, “Economy”

Week Eight: March 4 – 8

Read Thoreau: Walden, “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For” through “Baker Farm”

**Spring Break March 11 - 15**

Week Nine: March 18 – 22

Read Thoreau: Walden, “Higher Laws” through “Conclusion”

Week Ten: March 25 - 29

Read Thoreau: “Slavery in Massachusetts” and “A Plea for Captain John Brown”

Week Eleven: April 1 - 5

Read Emerson: “The Fugitive Slave Law” and “John Brown”

Week Twelve: April 8 – 12

Read Thoreau: Cape Cod

Week Thirteen: April 15 - 19

Read Thoreau: “Walking”

Week Fourteen: April 22 – 26

Read Thoreau: “Life Without Principle”

Week Fifteen: April 29 – May 1

Read Emerson: “Thoreau”

Final Exam: Monday, May 6, 10:15 – 12:15 a.m., **Final due to turnitin.com**