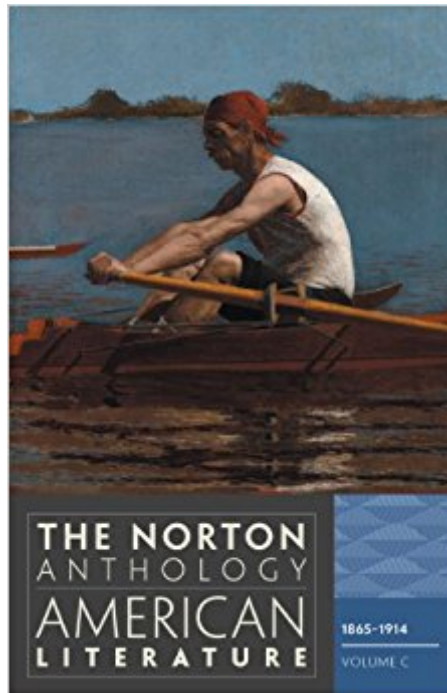


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This anthology is a vital, important textbook for the college student. It is not just a collection of short stories, poems, and novels, but a reference guide, an explanation, and contains additional information that is beneficial to the student.

This book is huge. I have several of these anthologies from over the years. Some purchased as text books and others purchased because they embodied the literature of the time frame they encompass. I really recommend them for someone who doesn't have time to read an entire novel, but still would like to be able to read classics.

One of my favourite university textbooks so far! Introductions to authors, wide collections of their work and sound editorial commentary. Interesting tidbits abound within the chapters, e.g. a copy of Dickinson's manuscript to compare against the published piece.

I know a lot of people take issue with what is included/excluded in these anthologies, but they are nonetheless a good literary primer. They get most of the highlights, and do a good job putting each work in context.

This publication is an absolute must have for my master's degree studies. It is highly detailed with valuable information. I recommend others to purchase this publication as well.

I got an A in this class the book was very good and major help to me in my studies. I am again a student getting my BS Degree online through the university of Bridgeport.

For a junior-level American literature survey I ordered this volume sight almost unseen, relying on the table of contents and the Norton reputation. As of the beginning of the semester, though, I'm disappointed in the editorial matter for the first two authors in the book, Whitman and Dickinson. About Whitman the book evades controversy in a way that seems anachronistic to the point of dishonesty. Not a word about Whitman's gayness? Really, in 2012? And not even one poem from "Children of Adam" or "Calamus"? And the Dickinson introduction seems misinformed in matters small and large. Small: contrary to what the introduction says, Amherst College was founded not by Dickinson's father but by her grandfather. That's the kind of mistake you expect from Wikipedia, not a Norton anthology. And about the large --Well, let me be pedantic. It does matter. Contrasting Dickinson with Whitman, this introduction once again gets Whitman wrong. Its claim that Emerson's slogan "not meters, but a meter-making argument" means (and this is a quote) "as if rules did not exist" strikes me as a complete and major misunderstanding. Against it we might put Emerson in the Divinity School Address saying, "Behold these out-running laws," and while we're at it we might also mention Whitman's "To a Locomotive in Winter," where the train speeding along the rails is apostrophized as "Law of thyself complete, thine own track firmly holding." So yes: contrary to what this section introduction says, both Emerson and Whitman believed that rules exist. It's just that they believed that the rules originate from within, not without. That's the whole idea behind free verse, and this section introduction misses it. I'll say it again: that mistake is major.

The product came as stated. It's handy and excellent source for papers or essays at the college level. I recommend this resource.

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