

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 30343 Seminar: American Literature I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Prerequisites or corequisites: ENGL 21143 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies
and ENGL 32503 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Critical study of canonical American works of the seventeenth to mid-nineteenth centuries.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity and facility with fundamental terminology and concepts relevant to the analysis of early American literature.
2. Formulate a critical analysis related to early American literature and support the analysis with evidence and argumentation by applying close reading and application of theory.
3. Evaluate sources and arguments in scholarly works, or in various literary approaches and techniques employed by writers from the colonial, early national, and antebellum periods.
4. Compare and contrast how various American writers' use of language is related to contemporary ways of thinking, cultural heritage, and cultural values.
5. Implement various critical approaches to assign meanings in a work.
6. Create a critical argument analysis that builds from the skill development of cultural studies and textual research methods.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

A. Beginnings to Renaissance

1. Native American Oral literatures
2. Colonial America narratives and poetry
3. Captivity narratives
4. Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca
5. Olaudah Equiano
6. John Smith
7. William Bradford
8. Anne Bradstreet
9. Mary Rowlandson
10. Edward Taylor
11. Sarah Kemble Knight
12. Jonathan Edwards

B. Revolution to Reconstruction

1. Abigail Adams
2. John Adams
3. Benjamin Franklin
4. Thomas Paine
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. Slave narratives and Antebellum America

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. Frederick Douglass
- c. Harriet Beecher Stowe

C. Romanticism to Transcendentalism

- 1. Washington Irving
- 2. James Fenimore Cooper
- 3. Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 4. Edgar Allan Poe
- 5. Walt Whitman
- 6. Emily Dickinson
- 7. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- 8. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- 9. Henry David Thoreau
- 10. Herman Melville