

ENG 231 American Literature I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113

Corequisites: None

This course covers selected works in American literature from its beginnings to 1865. Emphasis is on historical background, cultural context, and literary analysis of selected prose, poetry, and drama. Upon completion, students should be able to interpret, analyze, and respond to literary works in their historical and cultural contexts. This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the works of major American writers of the period in the context of such literary, historical, cultural, and intellectual movements as Puritanism, the Enlightenment, and Romanticism;
2. Trace the development of specific genres and themes of literature during the period;
3. Analyze literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns;
4. Identify styles, themes, and works of major writers;
5. Understand and apply a variety of critical approaches to literature;
6. Understand critical and popular reception of major works of this period;
7. Communicate critical insights about American literature in writing and orally.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Overview of issues in American literature
 - A. Cultural, intellectual, and historic background
 - B. Genres and literary movements
- II. Puritanism in America
 - A. Cultural, intellectual, and historic context
 - B. Literary characteristics
- III. The Enlightenment in America
 - A. Cultural, intellectual, and historic context
 - B. Literary characteristics
- IV. The Romantic Period in American literature
 - A. Cultural, intellectual, and historic context
 - B. Literary characteristics
- V. Selected authors and works from each period
 - A. Biographic overview
 - B. Critical and popular reception
 - C. Stylistic and thematic characteristics

D. Contribution to American literature

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.