VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
35341 American literature I: from the origins to the 19th century

COURSE DATA

Data Subject	
Code	35341
Name	American literature I: from the origins to the 19th century
Cycle	Grade
ECTS Credits	6.0
Academic year	2024 - 2025

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	2	First term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	8 - Literature of the United States	Obligatory

Coordination

Name	Department
LLACER LLORCA, VICENTE EUSEBIO	155 - English and German

SUMMARY

This course is an overview of the origins of the literature of the United States as reflected in the work and lives of the most relevant authors of the early colonial period and its further development in the 18th and 19th centuries, with particular attention to the various religious, political and cultural phenomena that have produced the contemporary American character.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

Other requirements

COMPETENCES (RD 1393/2007) // LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 822/2021)

1000 - Degree in English Studies

- The ability to assimilate knowledge in the field of linguistics and literary and cultural studies based on specialized textbooks and also comprising aspects of the most recent advances in the field.
- The ability to clearly define and defend ones points of view and to resolve problems within the area of linguistic and literary and cultural studies.
- The ability to gather and interpret relevant data in order to make judgements concerning scientific, social or ethical issues with an appropriate respect for the defence of Human Rights.
- The acquisition of learning skills that will enable students to go on successfully to further specialized study.
- The ability to find, handle and synthesize bibliographical information and information from databases and other electronic tools, including the use of Internet.
- The ability to identify movements, periods, genres, authors and works in various English-language literatures and to recognize their aesthetic conventions, modes of production and reception and their place within the traditions of western and world literatures.
- Familiarity with the various approaches and methods in literary theory and criticism and how they can be applied.
- Knowledge of the various techniques and methods of analysis of literary texts in English and the ability to apply them to a variety of texts.
- The development of the critical ability to characterize, explain, interpret and assess literary texts in English and to relate them to their respective literary and historical contexts, and to apply this ability within a comparative perspective.
- The ability to identify problems and research issues and evaluate their relevance in the area of English studies.
- The ability to compare and contrast different aspects of studies in language and literature and relate these studies with other areas and disciplines.
- The development of an ethical approach to issues such as gender equality, equal opportunity, democratic values, non-violence, environmental and sustainability problems as well as awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 1393/2007) // NO CONTENT (RD 822/2021)

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

1. apply concepts and knowledge related with the esthetic conventions, evolution, modes of production and the reception of works, genres and movements in North American literature to the following learning outcomes,

2. identify passages from literary works they have read during the course or seen in class

3. evaluate the meaning and significance of these passages within their respective works

4. write a stylistic commentary on a passage or a short text

5. explicate, interpret or criticize a literary text from the United States using various methodological approaches.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Colonial Period and Puritanism

2. Enlightenment and Revolution

3. Slavery and other Literatures

4. Romanticism

WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	60,00	100
Attendance at events and external activities	2,00	0
Development of group work	20,00	0
Study and independent work	58,00	0
Preparation of evaluation activities	10,00	0
TOTAL	**150,00**	

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Theory-based classes: This subject will be structured around lecture classes that aim to provide the necessary historical and cultural context for each movement or period under consideration, and commentary and group discussion of representative texts included in the reading list.

Practical classes: Group discussion of all representative texts of each unit.

EVALUATION

Assessment in the FIRST and SECOND CALLS:

a) Individual written examination: 80 %

b) Two essay questions related to specific texts and authors from the reading list included in the written examination, or optional essays or tasks: 20%

To pass the subject students need to get at least 5 points out of 10.

The questions will evaluate both theoretical and practical aspects of the course in order

1) to assess the student's assimilation of knowledge and concepts imparted during lectures and

2) to assess her/his understanding of and critical response to texts studied in class as reflected in the ability to manage the appropriate methods and techniques of analysis

Plagiarism will not be tolerated; it is a serious academic offence. Any student who is found to have plagiarised his/her work will face serious consequences which could lead to failing the subject

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of the student's work. All work submitted in this course must be originally authored by every student. No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

The ability to communicate at the B2 (CEFR level) is required to pass the course as a whole. Students' whose written and/or oral communication display errors that are not consistent with the above level will fail the module regardless of their performance related to the course contents.

REFERENCES

Basic

- 1. MATERIALS
  a) Book
  American Literature from its Origins to the Nineteenth Century, ed. Elena Ortells. València: JPM, 2016.
- Bercovitch, Sacvan (gen. ed.). The Cambridge History of American Literature. Vol. 1 1590-1820. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1995.
  ------. The Cambridge History of American Literature. Vol. 2 1820-1865. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1995.
  Bradbury, Malcom. From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature. Malcolm Bradbury & Richard Ruland. London, 1991.

Davis, Charles T. & Henry Louis Gates, Jr., eds. The Slaves Narrative. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
Elliott, Emory, et. al. (ed.) The Columbia Literary History of the United States. New York, Columbia University Press, 1988. Ed. española: Historia de la literatura norteamericana, Madrid, Cátedra, 1991.
------. The Columbia History of the American Novel. New York, Columbia University Press, 1991.
Fredrickson, George M. (1971): The Black Image in the White Mind: The Debate on Afro-American Character and Destiny 1817-1914. New York, Harper & Row, 1971.
Manuel Cuenca, Carme. Guía bibliográfica para el estudio de la literatura de los Estados Unidos. València: Publicacions de la Universitat de València, 2002.
_____. La literatura de Estados Unidos desde sus orígenes hasta la Primera Guerra Mundial. Madrid: Editorial Síntesis, 2006.
Parini, Jay and Brett C. Millier (eds.). The Columbia History of American Poetry. New York, Columbia University Press, 1993.

Additional

- Andrews, William L. To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760-1865. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986.
Bell, Bernard W. The Afro-American Novel and its Tradition. Amherst, Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts Press, 1987.
Davidson, Cathy N. Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the American Novel in America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.
Engle, Ron and Tice L. Miller (eds.). The American Stage: Social and Economic Issues from the Colonial Period to the Present. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1993.
Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. (1988): The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literature. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1988.
Grimsted, David. Melodrama Unveiled: American Theater and Culture, 1800-1850. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, University of California Press, 1987.
Krupat, Arnold. The Voice in the Margin: Native American Literature and the Canon. Berkeley, Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1989.
Nelson, Dana D. (The Word in Black and White: Reading Race in American Literature, 1638-1867. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.