VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
35741 American Literature 1: from the origins to the 19th century

COURSE DATA

Data Subject

Code	35741
Name	American Literature 1: from the origins to the 19th century
Cycle	Grade
ECTS Credits	6.0
Academic year	2024 - 2025

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	4	First term
1002 - Degree in Classical Philology	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication		First term
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	4	First term
1008 - Degree in Modern Languages and Literatures	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	4	First term
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	4	First term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	24 - Minor in English studies	Optional
1002 - Degree in Classical Philology	26 - Minor in English studies	Optional
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	43 - Minor in English	Optional
1008 - Degree in Modern Languages and Literatures	17 - Minor in English studies	Optional
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	26 - Minor en Estudios Ingleses	Optional

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

It is highly recommended that students have at least a sufficient knowledge of English to be able to read and understand the primary and secondary texts required for the subject.

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

1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies

- Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.
- Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.
- Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.
- Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.
- Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.
- Be familiar with a literature in a language other than the main Degree language.
- Know the grammar and develop communicative competences in (a) foreign language(s).
- Interrelate different areas of humanistic studies.

1002 - Degree in Classical Philology

- Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.
- Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.
- Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.
- Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.
- Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.
- Know the grammar and develop communicative competences in (a) foreign language(s).
- Interrelate different areas of humanistic studies.

1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature

- Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.
- Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.
- Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.
- Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.
- Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.
- Be familiar with a literature in a language other than the main Degree language.
- Know the grammar and develop communicative competences in (a) foreign language(s).
- Interrelate different areas of humanistic studies.

1008 - Degree in Modern Languages and Literatures

- Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

- Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.
- Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.
- Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.
- Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.
- Be familiar with a literature in a language other than the main Degree language.
- Know the grammar and develop communicative competences in (a) foreign language(s).
- Interrelate different areas of humanistic studies.

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. Early Republic and Establishment of a National Literature

4. Romanticism and Transcendentalism

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.

Assessment Criteria

The exam 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

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.

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.

REFERENCES

Basic

- 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.
- 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.
- Davis, Charles T. & Henry Louis Gates, Jr., eds. The Slaves Narrative. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- 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.