

Course Abstract

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.

To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.

Course ID and Name: ENG 243 Literature of the United States: Beginnings to 1880

Department: English

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Michael Nester

Office Location: RH 236

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Prerequisites: ENG 122 or 125 or permission of the department chairperson

Co-requisites:

Course Description: A survey of works illustrating the literary experience in the United States from colonial times to 1880. Various cultural, intellectual, historical and literary perspectives are explored. Students complete reading, writing, and research assignments to develop the skills of literary interpretation and analysis.

General Education Status: Humanities

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours:

Learning Outcomes:

1. Interpret and analyze literature and justify their responses orally and in writing.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the formal features of literary texts and a knowledge of contexts.
3. Demonstrate the ability to paraphrase, summarize, and respond to texts by composing, through a series of drafts, coherent, persuasive, developed, and grammatical essays; compose research papers demonstrating the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize source materials and to cite this information correctly.
4. Read and be able to discuss works of American authors before 1880.
5. Identify and discuss changes in writing style and content that accompanied critical, scientific, and political change as appropriate to a survey course.
6. Analyze works in the fields of theater and literature.
7. Discuss the importance of global perspectives and diverse peoples.

Course Content Areas:

1. **Research and writing:** Research essays based on primary and secondary sources and using most recent MLA documentation style. A midterm and final examination requiring the writing of essays that make close reference to the literature studied.
 2. **Reading:** Novels, short stories, poems, sermons, and other writings from a variety of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American authors such as Winthrop, Williams, Bradstreet, Mather, Edwards, Franklin, Crèvecoeur, Paine, Jefferson, Hamilton and Madison, Irving, Cooper, Bryant, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Poe, Lincoln, Fuller, Douglass, Lowell, Whitman, Melville, and Dickinson.
- ### **3. Lecture/Discussion:**
- a. Major literary and intellectual developments and trends in American literature from the beginnings to the post-Civil War years.
 - b. Themes, character types, motifs, archetypes and/or other basic concerns important to a basic but adequate understanding and appreciation of the literature under consideration.
 - c. Literary devices such as plot, theme, point of view, character development, tone, setting, and figurative language to the degree that each affects the literature in which it is found.