

ENGL A150: AMERICAN LITERATURE BEFORE THE 20TH CENTURY

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	03/12/2025
Top Code	150300 - Comparative Literature
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3 Arts and Humanities 3A Theory (OC1)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3B Humanities (OSC2)
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 3B Humanities (3B)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 3B Humanities (3B)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU C2 Humanities (C2)

Course Description

Read, analyze, and write on important early American literary works produced prior to the 20th Century. Explore the historical, cultural, philosophical, and aesthetic implications of representative works. Formulate and produce written analyses of assigned works. Enrollment Limitation: ENGL A150H; students who complete ENGL A150 may not enroll in or receive credit for ENGL A150H. ADVISORY: ENGL C1000. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC. C-ID: ENGL 130.C-ID: ENGL 130.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Write Analytical arguments about American Literature before 1900 and its influences.

Course Objectives

- 1. Read and demonstrate an understanding of no fewer than 4 long works (plays, novels, cinema, epic poems, collections of short stories or poems) of American literature before the twentieth century, supplemented by either more long works or enough shorter works or excerpts of works to constitute an introductory survey course.
- 2. Identify and examine the philosophical, cultural, mythic, religious, and/or historical elements that are represented in American literature before the twentieth century or that provide a background context for American literature before the twentieth century.

- 3. Learn to read closely in order to recognize and interpret the literary devices and writing styles evident in individual texts of American literature before the twentieth century. Appreciate how these elements make each work a representation of an individual author's artistic sensibility, of a particular set of circumstances, and/or of a larger group of literature.
- 4. Examine the influence of different gender, economic, cultural, racial, and/or ethnic groups on American literature before the twentieth century.
- 5. Recognize how individual works of American literature before the twentieth century reflect and comment on moral, social, and aesthetic issues.
- 6. Write a minimum of 3000 words (15 pages, 12 pt. double spaced typed) about American literature before the twentieth century: (a) a minimum of 2000 words (10 pages) of the writing must be in the form of analytical essays, (b) the other writings may be in the form of tests requiring primarily short and/or long essay responses, journal writings, creative modeling of the literature, written notes outlining oral presentations, written scripts for film/video presentations, or other types of writings that demonstrate an understanding of the literature.

Lecture Content

English and American literature overview and background pre colonial literature of England American colonial literature as history and art major movements, including Colonialism, Revolutionary, Romanticism, Realism and Naturalism Early forms and genres the diary and journal poetry the narrative the sermon Masters of early American literature Bradford, Bradstreet, Franklin, Irving, Poe, Crane, Melville, Thoreau, Emerson, Whitman

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)

Instructional Techniques

Lecture and application of ideas, discussion, instructor feedback on written papers and discussion, peer feedback.

Reading Assignments

Various readings assigned from text

Writing Assignments

Write a minimum of 3000 words (15 pages, 12 pt. double spaced typed) about American literature before the twentieth century: (a) a minimum of 2000 words (10 pages) of the writing must be in the form of analytical essays, (b) the other writings may be in the form of tests requiring primarily short and/or long essay responses, journal writings, creative modeling of the literature, written notes outlining oral presentations, written scripts for film/video presentations, or other types of writings that demonstrate an understanding of the literature.

Out-of-class Assignments

Writing assignments, test and presentation preparation.

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Quizzes, examinations, essays, and oral presentation.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Write a minimum of 3000 words (15 pages, 12 pt. double-spaced typed) about American literature before the twentieth century: (a) a minimum of 2000 words (10 pages) of the writing must be in the form of analytical essays, (b) the other writings may be in the form of tests requiring primarily short and/or long essay responses, journal writings, creative modeling of the literature, written notes outlining oral presentations, written scripts for film/video presentations, or other types of writings that demonstrate an understanding of the literature.

Eligible Disciplines

English: Master's degree in English, literature, comparative literature, or composition OR bachelor's degree in any of the above AND master's degree in linguistics, TESL, speech, education with a specialization in reading, creative writing, or journalism OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Whitman, Walt. Selected Poems, ed. Mineola: Dover, 2001
Rationale: - 2. Required Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, ed. Mineola: Dover, 2004 Rationale: - 3. Required Melville, Herman. Billy Budd and Other Stories, ed. New York: Penguin, 1986 Rationale: - 4. Required Baym, Nina et. al.. The Norton Anthology of American Literature, ed. Norton, 2011