

	Course title: American Literature to 1900			
Course code	Status of course	Semester	ECTS credits	Contact hours per week
AK20v	Compulsory	3	5	2+2

Study programme(s): English Language and Literature

Eligibility requirements: /

Course objectives: Introducing students to the cultural and historical dynamics of early American literature, with a closer reading and interpretation of the most notable works of American literature of the 19th century.

Learning outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- critically engage with the main characteristics and diversities of American Literature to 1900
- identify selected texts, compare and contextualise them
- outline, present, and write coherent (con)textual analyses of selected poems and short stories
- outline, present, and write coherent (con)textual analyses of other examples from early American literature
- outline, present, and write a synthesis of several literary works, placing them within broader social and critical contexts

Lecturer(s) and TA(s): Dr Tatjana Bijelić, Milica Jošić-Milinović, MA

Teaching methods and strategies: Lectures, tutorials, seminar papers and presentations.

Course topics: American literature of the 18th and 19th centuries in the contexts of American civilization and culture, with a special focus on relevant works of American literature of the 19th century.

Preparatory week	Preparation and student registration
Week 1	History and culture of American Indians
Week 2	Colonial period: history, culture; diaries and travel journals as the beginning of literary expression
Week 3	The Age of American Enlightenment and Revolution: a contextual overview of male and female writers
Week 4	XIX century – American Renaissance – overview and main features
Week 5	Romanticism through the works of Edgar Allan Poe
Week 6	Transcendentalism through the ideas of Emerson, Thoreau and Margaret Fuller
Week 7	American novel of the XIX century; Melville and Hawthorne
Week 8	Herman Melville: <i>Moby Dick</i> ; Nathaniel Hawthorne: <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
Week 9	Test I
Week 10	Civil war; Realism and Naturalism in literature
Week 11	Poetry that resists simple classification: Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson
Week 12	Henry James: <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> ; Harriet B. Stowe: <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
Week 13	Louisa M. Alcott: <i>Little Women</i> ; Mark Twain: <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Week 14	Women writers and reformers; Kate Chopin: <i>The Awakening</i>
Week 15	Test II

Student workload

<u>Contact hours per week</u>	<u>Total contact hours in semester</u>
2 + 2 (lectures and tutorials) + 4 hours of independent research office hours	60

It is obligatory for students to attend both the lectures and tutorials.

Course reading list:

- (selected chapters/excerpts from the sources listed below)

1. Baym, Nina et al (eds.): *The Northon Anthology of American Literature*, Package 1, W.W. Norton & Company, 2007.
2. Bradbury, Malcolm & Ruland, Richard: *From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature*, Penguin Books, 1991.
3. Cunliffe, Marcus (ed.): *American Literature to 1900*, The Penguin History of Literature, London, 1993.
4. Lauter, Paul (ed.): *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Volumes A-C, Fifth Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 2006.
5. O'Callaghan, Bryn, *An Illustrated History of the USA*, Longman, England, 1990.
6. VanSpanckeren, Kathryn: *Outline of American Literature*, US Dept of State, 1994.
7. Vukčević, Radojka, *A History of American Literature: Then and Now*, Univerzitet Crne Gore, Institut za strane jezike, Podgorica, 2005.
8. Vukčević Radojka (ed.): *Perspectives on American Literature*, Univerzitet u Beogradu, 2008.

Assessment and marking:

25% 1st test (25 points maximum)

25% 2nd test (25 points maximum)

50% final exam (50 points maximum)

The final mark is based on the sum of the points earned on all the aforementioned tests.

Specific course designation: /

Syllabus information provided by: Dr Tatjana Bijelić, assoc. professor