

27826 - American Literature I

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 27826 - American Literature I

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 2

Semester: Second semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

The main objective of this subject is to provide students with specialized knowledge about the origins of US literature. This will be achieved through the study of a significant textual corpus from various theoretical frameworks, taking into account relevant notions such as identity, nation, race, gender, and social class. The course aims to emphasize the relation between each text and the history and culture of the United States and Western society as a whole. Apart from SDGs 4, 10 and 17, as described in section 6 in this guide, this course deals with SDGs 1, 5 and 13.

2. Learning results

In order to pass this subject, the student must accomplish the following learning goals:

- Define the different periods that structure North American literature from its origins until the mid-19th century.
- Name and chronologically locate the main authors, texts, genres, and literary trends of the period.
- Explain the connection of each text and author with their specific historical-literary context.
- Analyze the compulsory texts included in the course syllabus, paying attention to both form and content, correctly applying the techniques of close reading and the studied theoretical frameworks.
- Compare the formal and content aspects of the different texts in the syllabus.
- Generate hypotheses on specific topics related to the contents and works of the program.
- Handle bibliographic sources to obtain additional information on topics related to the program, selecting the most relevant ones among those available and properly indicating the consulted sources.
- Assess the relevance of each of the texts and authors included in the syllabus for the understanding of North American literature and, more broadly, the cultural history of the United States.
- Summarize the most relevant characteristics of American literature from its origins to the mid-19th century.
- Use the English language with a higher degree of accuracy, both orally and in writing, applying all the above at a C1.1 level of the CEFR.

3. Syllabus

1. COLONIAL PERIOD (1492-1765)

Native American oral tradition: Iroquois Creation Story", *Winnebago Trickster Cycle*

Literature of exploration: *General History*, J. Smith; *Of Plymouth Plantation*, W. Bradford

Puritanism: "The Prologue", "To My Dear and Loving Husband", A. Bradstreet; *Captivity Narrative*, M. Rowlandson

2. AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND DEMOCRACY (1765-1829)

Enlightenment and revolutionary literature: "Remarks...", *Autobiography*, B. Franklin.

Fiction: "Rip Van Winkle", W. Irving; *The Last of the Mohicans*, J. F. Cooper.

3. ORIGINS OF ROMANTICISM (1829-1865)

Transcendentalism: *Nature*, R. W. Emerson; *Walden*, H. D. Thoreau

Literature and reform: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, F. Douglass; *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, de H. B. Stowe.

4. Academic activities

- Theory sessions

The course will cover historical and cultural contexts, main characteristics of authors, works, and critical and methodological

concepts.

- Practice sessions and group seminars

Critical analysis of the compulsory literary texts will be conducted through guided commentary in both large group settings and small discussion groups.

- Supervised activities

Individual and group tutorials will be conducted.

- Autonomous activities

Reading the compulsory texts corresponding to each unit, reviewing concepts discussed in class, consulting bibliographic sources, and accessing additional materials on the course's Moodle page.

- Global exam

5. Assessment system

FIRST CALL

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT (100%) (if no practice teaching group exceeds 25 students):

1) Completion of two partial exams (reading tests and analysis of quotes from compulsory texts), weeks 7, 11 and 15 [40% of the final grade].

2) Completion of a written test (essay question relating two or more texts and/or authors from the syllabus) [60% of the final grade].

Evaluation criteria: knowledge of the subject matter, effective development of argumentation, ability to analyze texts in depth considering form and content, and appropriate expression in English at a C1.1 level according to the CEFR.

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (100%)

Completion, on the date specified in the academic calendar, of an exam divided into two parts:

1) Short questions on topics, concepts, texts, authors [40% of the final grade].

2) Essay question relating two or more texts and/or authors from the syllabus [60% of the final grade].

For both continuous and global assessment, failing to achieve a minimum of 4.5 out of 10 points in either part will result in a failing grade. The average score of the exams must reach 5.0 points to pass the course.

Evaluation criteria: knowledge of the subject matter, effective development of argumentation, ability to analyze texts in depth considering form and content, and appropriate expression in English at a C1.1 level according to the CEFR.

SECOND CALL

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (100%)

Identical to the global assessment of the 1st call.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

4 - Quality Education

10 - Reduction of Inequalities

17 - Partnerships for the Goals