

Course title: American Literature from the Beginnings to End of the 19th Century		Credits: 5	Course code:
Type of the course Lecture Seminar Practice	Assessment: Examination Performance-based grade Approval		
<p>Semester (according to the standard curriculum): 4th semester Course availability: according to the standard curriculum Language of instruction (if not in Hungarian): English Prerequisites: Introduction to Literature Type of the course (compulsory, obligatory elective, free elective): Course schedule: http://www.kodolanyi.hu/neptun/</p>			
<p>Course objectives: This course aims to develop students' reading and analytical abilities, the ability to understand and evaluate literary works, to analyse sources, to discover interrelationships in a wider literary context, to get to know means and methods through which they can expand their knowledge, to study the historical background of the literary era in question.</p>			
<p>Learning outcomes (based on professional competences):</p> <p>Knowledge: knows the special terminology of the different fields knows the characteristic research issues and analysis and interpretations methods of American Studies Has an overview of the various historical sciences</p> <p>Skill: the ability to prepare written analyses the ability to find and apply the adequate scholarly methods</p>			
<p>Attitude:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands and accepts that cultural phenomena are historically and socially determined and variable 2. continuously develops professional competence 3. continuously develops reading comprehension and text production skills related to relevant tasks 			
<p>Autonomy and responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. integrates acquired knowledge regarding American studies 2. is open to understand the background sources relating to Anglo-Saxon cultures 3. takes responsibility for his texts and is aware of the potential consequences, avoids plagiarism 			
<p>The course introduces students to general areas of literature. The students acquire basic research methods, and will be able to apply different interpretations of literary works based on</p>			

different theoretical concepts. Through seminar work they will be able confront different ideas, and they will also extend their knowledge in preparing research papers based on special sources.

Course content:

- Week 1* Introduction. Colonial period: John Smith and William Bradford; social and cultural differences in colonial America.
- Week 2* Edward Taylor's and Jonathan Edwards's works.
- Week 3* Benjamin Franklin's works
- Week 4* American Romanticism 1.: Washington Irving (*Rip van Winkle, The Legend of the Sleepy Hollow*)
- Week 5* American Romanticism 2.: James Fenimore Cooper (*The Last of the Mohicans, The Deerslayer*)
- Week 6* American Romanticism 3.: Edgar Allen Poe's short stories (*Murders at Rue Morgue, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Black Cat*)
- Week 7* Transcendentalism: Ralph Waldo Emerson and *Self-Reliance*; Henry David Thoreau and *Walden*
- Week 8* Nathaniel Hawthorne's novels and short prose fiction (*The Scarlet Letter, The Birthmark, Rappaccini's Daughter*)
- Week 9* Herman Melville and *Moby Dick*.
- Week 10* Walt Whitman's poetry
- Week 11* American Naturalism, Jack London's short stories (*The White Silence, Love of Life, Law of Life, A Piece of Steak, To Build a Fire*)
- Week 12* Mark Twain and Regionalism (*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*)
- Week 13* Summary and conclusion

Teaching methods:

Lecture
Active learning
Autonomous learning
Pairwork
Group work
Text analysis
Presentation

Prerequisites: Introduction to Literature

Requirements (exam's evaluation criteria and list of topics):

In the course of the semester:
Active participation in class
Home assignments, written and oral
Presentations

The exam comprises 50% of the final mark, the other 50% is the semester mark.

Examination topics:

4. Colonial Period of American Literature
5. James Fenimore Cooper
6. Edgar Allen Poe
7. Nathaniel Hawthorne
8. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau
9. Herman Melville
10. Naturalism, Jack London
11. Regionalism, Mark Twain

Department/faculty responsible for the course: Dept. of English Language and Literature

Required average students' working hours (number of credits multiplied by 30): 150

Compulsory reading:

Bollobás, E. *Az amerikai irodalom története* Budapest: Ozirisz 2005.

Ruland, R. and Bradbury, M. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism* London: Routledge, 1991.

Gray R. *A History of American Literature* Williston: Blackwell Publishers, 2004.

Recommended reading:

Cullen, J. *The American Dream* New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Antology of American Literature* New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007.

Bercovitch, Sacvan ed. *The Cambridge History of American Literature* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Course leader: Dr. Wertheimer Gábor

Lecturers: Dr. Wertheimer Gábor, Dr. Tamás Péter