

Code	Subject Title	Cr. Hrs	Semester
ENG-403	American Literature	3	VII
Year	Discipline		
4	English		

Aims:

The course focuses on connecting diverse Western movements such as Realism, Naturalism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Modernism, as they influence multiple trends in American literary heritage and nationalism. It will highlight emerging trends as they culminate in the opening of democratic vistas along with repercussions of industrial and scientific expansion. Race, gender and class equations reinterpreted the central meaning of America and of the changing social and economic values. Whether we follow a simple chronology or draw connections through themes and genres, the final objective of this course is to look for the sense of democratic diversity amid the constitutional unity of the US.

This part of the course surveys the origins of American literary movements with reference to the representative writers chosen. It sets some direction to the study of specific trends in the American Novel. It stresses the diversity and uniqueness of the American character and experience, and its foundational voices of self-acclaimed Puritan holiness along with the revolutionary expansions of the so called patriots. It also highlights various phases of the American Renaissance, Romantic awareness and Transcendentalism, the Civil War, scientific progress, dreams of American success, and several voices of social protest.

Contents:

Poetry:

Walt Whitman	Leaves of Grass – Song of Myself (Lines: 1-139)
Emily Dickinson	Poem 448 This was a poet – It is that Poem 435 Much Madness is divinest sense
Robert Frost	Mending Walls The Road Not Taken
Sylvia Plath:	Daddy Lady Lazarus
Elizabeth Bishop	Filling Station In the Waiting Room
Richard Wilbur	The Writer The Death of a Toad.

Fiction:

Mark Twain	The Story of a good Little Boy & The Story of a Bad Little Boy
Faulkner	A Rose for Emily
Flannery O'Connor	A Good Man is Hard to Find
Alice Walker	Everyday Use
Morrison	Jazz

Drama

Eugene O'Neill	Long Days Journey into Night
Arthur Miller	Death of a Salesman

Recommended Readings:

1. Bigsby, C.W.E. *A Critical Introduction to Twentieth Century American Drama: Vol 1,2,3.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.
2. Modern Critical Interpretation on each dramatist and work. Edited by Harold Bloom, 1980s editions.
3. Bigsby, C.W.E. *Modern American Drama 1945-2000.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
4. Bigsby, Christopher. *Contemporary American Playwrights.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
5. Pfister, Manfred. *The Theory and Analysis of Drama.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Note: The recommended readings are optional and are provided to facilitate the aims and objectives of the syllabus. They are not to be taken as text books.