

Love and Death in American Literature

Code: 42291
ECTS Credits: 6

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|----------------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 4313157 Advanced English Studies | OT | 0 | 0 |

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Prerequisites

- Students should be interested in reading classic and modern texts
- Previous knowledge and reading of English and American literature

Objectives and Contextualisation

To understand the deep changes that have affected novels and short stories between the late 19th century and the beginning of 21st century. The course will be focused on one of the greatest themes in Western literature: the links between love and death.

Skills

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level primary texts from North American Literature in relation to the representation of love and death.
2. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level secondary texts on North American Literature.

3. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
4. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
5. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
6. Distinguish and contrast the different theoretical and methodological models applied to the academic study of North American Literature in relation to love and death
7. Make oral presentations in English about subjects and texts related to advanced research into the issues of love and death in North American literature.
8. Read and analyse literary and cultural representation in the English language on the issue of love and death in North American literature.
9. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
10. Write texts defending an idea in relation to a literary text in English from North American Literature applying secondary sources to the critical argumentation.

Content

James, Henry. *The Spoils of Poynton* (1897)
 Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying* (1930)
 Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
 Carson McCullers. "The Ballad of the Sad Café" (1951)
 James Baldwin. Essays (selection)
 Morrison, Toni. *Jazz* (1992)
 Erdrich, Louise. *The Antelope Wife* (1998)
 Selection of contemporary short stories: Mary Miller, Lydia Davis, etc

Methodology

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Activities

| Title | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes |
|--|-------|------|-------------------------------|
| Type: Directed | | | |
| Textual analysis, interpretation, debates. | 50 | 2 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 |
| Type: Supervised | | | |
| Tutorials | 15 | 0.6 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Reading of primary and secondary sources | 40 | 1.6 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 |

Evaluation

Students will be assessed with a series of exercises:

- An essay written in class 20%
- A final paper 30%
- 4 short essays with several questions to choose from 40%
- Participation: debates, discussions and oral presentations 10%

Evaluation activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes |
|----------------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------------|
| 4 short essays | 40% | 15 | 0.6 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 |
| Final paper | 30% | 18 | 0.72 | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 |
| In-class essay | 20% | 2 | 0.08 | 1, 3, 8, 9 |
| Participation | 10% | 10 | 0.4 | 3, 4, 7, 9 |

Bibliography

This is only a selection of some background bibliography. As the course progresses, students will receive other author/topic-specific bibliography.

FIEDLER, Leslie. *Love and Death in the American Novel*. New York: Stein and Day, 1975.

GRAY, Richard. *A History of American Literature*. Malden: Blackwell, 2004.

KALAJDZIAN, Walter. *The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

LAMB, R.P. *A Companion to American Fiction 1865-1914*. Malden: Blackwell, 2005.

ROUGEMONT, Denis de. *Love in the Western World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983.

SOLLORS, Werner. *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.