

Literature of the United States I: 19c.

Code: 106304
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2504212 English Studies	OB	2	2
2504380 English and Catalan Studies	OB	3	2
2504386 English and Spanish Studies	OB	3	2
2504393 English and French Studies	OB	3	2
2504394 English and Classics Studies	OB	3	2

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Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

Teachers

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Laura Gimeno Pahissa

Prerequisites

1. Prior to do this subject, it is highly recommended that students have taken the following subjects: "Introducció a la literatura anglesa" from the First Year and "Història Cultural dels Estats Units" from the Second Year - First Semester.
2. It is necessary to have a C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching and Assessment. "A C2 level of English allows students to: understand with ease virtually everything heard or read; summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstruct arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation; express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.

Objectives and Contextualisation

1. This subject fosters the analysis, debate and interpretation of prose and poetry written in the United States during the 19th century.
2. The academic preparation deriving from this subject is essential for all remaining subjects within the degree relating to US literature and culture.
3. On successfully completing 19th century US Literature, students will be able to: show a good level of reading comprehension and analysis of American literature; produce written analyses of literary texts studied in class; manage secondary bibliography and databases; express an informed opinion on the texts studied throughout this course

Competences

English Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Apply scientific ethical principles to information processing.
- Apply the methodology of analysis and critical concepts to analysing the literature, culture and history of English-speaking countries.
- Identify and analyse the main currents, genres, works and authors in English and comparative literature.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Understand and produce written and spoken academic texts in English at advanced higher-proficient-user level (C2).
- Use current philological methodologies to interpret literary texts in English and their cultural and historical context.
- Use written and spoken English for academic and professional purposes, related to the study of linguistics, the philosophy of language, history, English culture and literature.

English and Catalan Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Critically evaluate the literary and cultural production in the Catalan and English languages and their historical and social context.
- Identify and interpret literary texts in different languages, analysing the generic, formal, thematic and cultural characteristics in accordance with the concepts and methods of comparative literature and literary theory.
- Make correct use of written and spoken English for academic or professional purposes, related to the study of language, history, culture and literature.
- Recognise the most significant periods, traditions, tendencies, authors and works of literature in the Catalan and English languages in their socio-historical context.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Understand and produce oral and written academic texts with appropriateness and fluency in distinct communicative contexts.

English and Spanish Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Correctly use written and oral English and Spanish for academic and professional purposes, related to the study of linguistics, history, culture and literature.
- Critically analyse linguistic, literary and cultural production in English and Spanish, applying the techniques and methods of critical editing and digital processing.
- Interpret literary texts in English or Spanish within their cultural and historical context using current philological methodologies and textual and comparative strategies.
- Recognize the most significant periods, traditions, trends, authors and works of literature in English and Spanish languages in their historical and social context

- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Understand and produce oral and written academic texts with appropriateness and fluency in distinct communicative contexts.

English and French Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Critically apply the different current philological methodologies to interpret literary texts in English and French and their cultural and historical context.
- Recognize the most significant periods, traditions, trends, authors and works of literature in English and French in their historical and social context.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Understand and produce oral and written academic texts with appropriateness and fluency in distinct communicative contexts.
- Use spoken English and French correctly for academic and professional purposes related to the study of linguistics, history, culture and literature.

English and Classics Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Apply the methodology of analysis and knowledge of genres, metrics and stylistics to comment on literary texts and analyse the culture and history of English-speaking countries and the ancient world.
- Recognize the most significant periods, traditions, trends, authors and works of Greek, Latin and English literatures in their historical and social context.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Understand and produce oral and written academic texts with appropriateness and fluency in distinct communicative contexts.
- Use written and spoken English correctly for academic and professional purposes related to the study of English linguistics, history, culture, and literature.

Learning Outcomes

1. Critically analyse American texts in order to understand the complexity of American literature and its historical and cultural context.
2. Express oneself effectively orally and in writing using expository and argumentative techniques.
3. Express oneself orally and in writing in English in an academic register, using appropriate terminology in relation to the study of American literature.
4. Identify and describe the characteristics of the American texts studied.
5. Incorporate ideas and concepts from published sources into work, citing and referencing appropriately.
6. Interpret, comment and write essays on texts written by American authors and be able to distinguish their most relevant characteristics.
7. Understand and analyse the diversity of the United States in terms of culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and linguistic and ideological identity.
8. Understand specialised academic texts (C2) on research in fields related to American authors and texts.
9. Understand specialised academic texts at higher-proficient-user level (C2) on research in fields related to American authors and texts.
10. Understand specialised academic texts on research in fields related to American authors and texts at Mastery level (C2).
11. Understand specialised academic texts on research in fields related to American authors and texts.

Content

UNIT 1 - The American Renaissance. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*; Herman Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener"; Henry David Thoreau's "Resistance to Civil Government"/"Civil Disobedience".

UNIT 2 - American Poetry. Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" and a selection of Emily Dickinson poems.

UNIT 3 - Race Relations in America. Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*; Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*; Kate Chopin's "Désirée's Baby"; selected writings from Zitkala-Ša's *American Indian Stories*.

UNIT 4 - The American Gothic. Edgar Allan Poe's "The Black Cat" and "The Tell-Tale Heart"; Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-Paper".

Methodology

Sessions will be organized around close reading of the texts. A historical, social and cultural context of nineteenth century America provided in class (or on Moodle) will reinforce the textual analysis. Texts will be discussed in class (or on Moodle), so it is PARAMOUNT for students to have read the texts conscientiously before class sessions. Students are required to PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY in class discussions.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

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Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures, readings and debates	50	2	1, 7, 2, 3, 4, 6
Type: Supervised			
Writing academic texts, assessment activities in the classroom	25	1	1, 7, 2, 4, 5, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Reading and studying	50	2	7, 8, 10, 11, 4

Assessment

Assessment is based on:

- Academic essay (in-class) = 45%
- Exam = 45%
- Class Participation = 10%

Exact dates for all assessment activities will be confirmed at the start of the course through a course calendar published on the class Moodle.

Please, note:

- All the subjects in this degree follow continuous assessment, unless the student opts for single assessment (see below).
- All the exercises are COMPULSORY.

- The submission of either the paper or the exam invalidates the student to get a final mark of "No Avaluable".
- The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark. It will count as 25% of this mark for all the exercises.
- On carrying out each assessment activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT:

- If the student opts for single assessment, this will consist of an exam with three activities: an essay about one of the texts studied (40%); a commentary on a passage from one of the texts studied (30%); and a comparative analysis exercise (30%).

REASSESSMENT CONDITIONS:

- The reassessment exam is a two-hour content-synthesis test scheduled by the Faculty.
- The student must previously have completed two thirds of the exercises in the continuous assessment or have completed all of the tasks for the single assessment.
- For the single assessment, the same reassessment method as continuous assessment will be used.
- Students whose final average mark is 3,5 or higher can go to reassessment.
- The reassessment exam is only awarded a pass/fail mark. The maximum grade than can be obtained through re-assessment is 5.
- Students cannot attend the reassessment exam to improve their marks.
- With the approval of the coordinador of studies, the professor may decide to exclude from the reassessment process those activities that s/he considers irrecuperable, such as: oral presentations, group work, or tasks related to classroom activities.
- If the student can't attend the exam because s/he is sick, they will have to agree on an alternative date with the teacher.

VERY IMPORTANT : Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year students) or the WHOLE subject (second-, third- and fourth-year students). PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text - with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a SERIOUS OFFENCE. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Irregularities refer, for instance, to copying in an exam, copying from sources without indicating authorship, or a misuse of AI such as presenting work as original that has been generated by an AI tool or programme. These evaluation activities will not be re-assessed.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Class participation	10%	17	0.68	1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 2, 3, 4, 6
Essay	45%	4	0.16	1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Exam	45%	4	0.16	1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Bibliography

Compulsory Reading:

HAWTHORNE, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter* (*) We recommend the following editions: Oxford (ISBN: 9780199537808) or Penguin (ISBN: 9780142437261)

MELVILLE, Herman. "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

THOREAU, Henry David. "Resistance to Civil Government"/"Civil Disobedience"

DOUGLASS, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (*) We recommend the following editions: Oxford (ISBN: 9780199539079) or Penguin (ISBN: 9780140390124)

TWAIN, Mark. *Pudd'nhead Wilson*. (*) We recommend the following editions: Oxford (ISBN: 9780199554713) or Penguin (ISBN: 9780140430400)

CHOPIN, Kate. "Désirée's Baby"

ZITKALA-ŠA, "Impressions of an Indian Childhood", "School Days of an Indian Girl", "An Indian Teacher Among Indians"

GILMAN, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wall-Paper"

POE, Edgar Allan. "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Black Cat"

DICKINSON, Emily. Poetry (Selections)

WHITMAN, Walt. "Song of Myself"

1) Students must buy the texts marked (*). Teachers will give you the rest of texts.

2) ALL texts can be found via **Project Gutenberg** <http://www.gutenberg.org> or **Many Books** <http://manybooks.net>

Secondary Bibliography:

Crow, Charles (ed.). *A Companion to the Regional Literatures of America*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003.

Fisch, Audrey (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to the African American Slave Narrative*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

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

Gray, Richard (ed.). *A Companion to the Literature and Culture of the American South*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004.

Lamb, Robert Paul (ed.). *A Companion to American Fiction: 1865-1914*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.

Pizer, Donald (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to American Realism and Naturalism: Howells to London*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Spengemann, William. *Three American Poets: Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Herman Melville*. Notre Dame, IN: The University of Notre Dame Press, 2010.

Sollors, Werner (ed.). *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.

Specific bibliography will be provided by the teacher throughout the semester.

Websites:

American Literature Sites (Washington State University), <http://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/>

American Transcendentalism, <http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/>

The American Renaissance and Transcendentalism, PBS, <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ihas/icon/transcend.html>

Documenting the American South. Slave Narratives and Southern texts. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/intro.html>

Software

Not applicable.