UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Literature of the United States I: 19c.

2026/2027

Code: 106304
Credits: 6

Degree programme	Type	Course
English Studies	OB	2
English and Catalan Studies	OB	3
English and Spanish Studies	OB	3
English and French Studies	OB	3
English and Classics Studies	OB	3

Contact lecturer

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Teaching staff

Anita Hillary Raychawdhuri

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Teaching staff (external to UAB)

Andrea Sáenz Reinoso

Group languages

You can consult this information at the end of the document.

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.
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

1. This subject, "Literature of the United States I: 19th Century" offers an introduction to the prose and

poetry written in the United States during the nineteenth century, through reading, analysis, debate and interpretation of texts written by the principal authors of the period.
2. The training obtained from this subject is essential for all remaining subjects within the degree relating to US literature and culture.
3. On completing the subject, students will be able to: show a good level of reading comprehension and analysis of US literature; produce basic literary criticism in written and oral formats; manage secondary bibliography and databases; express an informed opinion on the texts studied throughout this course.

Learning outcomes

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

Contents

UNIT 1 - American Romanticism in Prose: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher", Henry David Thoreau's "Resistance to Civil Government", Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter,* and Herman Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

UNIT 2 - American Romanticism in Poetry: Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" and a selection of poems by Emily Dickinson

UNIT 3 - Narrating Slavery: Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*

UNIT 4 - American Realism: Henry James's *Daisy Miller* and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-Paper"

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Lectures, readings and debates	50	2	
Reading and studying	50	2	
Writing academic texts, assessment activities in the classroom	25	1	

Sessions will be organized around close reading of the texts. A historical, social and cultural context of nineteenth century America provided in class will reinforce the textual analysis. Texts will be discussed in class, so it is PARAMOUNT for students to have read the texts conscientiously before class sessions.

Students are required to PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY in class discussions.

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the timetable established by the centre/title, for the completion by the students of the assessment surveys of the teaching staff's performance and the assessment of the subject.

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.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam	45%	4	0.16	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
Class participation	10%	17	0.68	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Essay (in-class)	45%	4	0.16	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Assessment is based on:

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

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

Please note:

- The assessment is continuous, unless the student opts for single assessment (see below).
- All the exercises are COMPULSORY.
- Students will obtain a "Not assessed"/"Not submitted" course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items (in this case, either the essay or the exam).
- 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 of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT:

The single assessment will consist of an exam with three activities:

- Essay (45%)
- Commentary on a passage (22.5%)
- Comparative analysis exercise (22.5%)

Class participation will count as 10% of the single assessment.

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 (in this case, the essay and the exam) 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.

- Students who have passed the subject cannot opt for reassessment to improve their final grade.
- There is no limit to the grade that can be obtained through reassessment.
- Class participation (group work, etc) cannot be reassessed.

PLAGIARISM AND MISCONDUCT:

Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise, which cannot be reassessed. PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text - with theintention of passing it off as the student'sown production. It includes cuttingand 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 indiacting 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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):

This subject prohibits the use of AI technologies. The use of AI (or any other form of assistance) is not permitted during in-class assessments (exams, quizzes, and group work). The use of AI in any assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty, and the activity will be awarded a zero and cannot be reassessed. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Important note for exchange students (Erasmus, etc.) on exams and other tests: Erasmus students who request to bring forward an exam or any other type of assessment activity must present the teacher with an official document from their home university justifying their request.

Bibliography

Compulsory Reading:

POE, Edgar Allan. "The Fall of the House of Usher" (1839).

THOREAU, Henry David. "Resistance to Civil Government" (1849).

HAWTHORNE, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter* (1850). (*We recommend the Oxford or Penguin editions.)

MELVILLE, Herman. "Bartleby, the Scrivener" (1853).

WHITMAN, Walt. "Song of Myself" (1855/1881).

DICKINSON, Emily. Una selección de poemas (1858-1872).

JACOBS, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861). (*We recommend the Penguin or Modern Library editions.)

TWAIN, Mark. *Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1893). (*We recommend the Oxford or Penguin editions.)

JAMES, Henry. *Daisy Miller* (1879). (*We recommend the Penguin edition.)

GILMAN, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wall-Paper" (1892).

Students must acquire the texts marked (*). The teacher will provide the rest of texts.

Secondary Bibliography:

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

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

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

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

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.

The critical bibliography for each author will be provided by the teacher throughout the semester.

Software

Not applicable.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this link. To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	2	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	2	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	3	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	3	English	second semester	morning-mixed