VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
35341 American literature I: from the origins to the 19th century

COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35341
Name: American literature I: from the origins to the 19th century
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	2	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Literature of the United States	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

LLACER LLORCA VICENTE EUSEBIO

SUMMARY

This course is an overview of the origins of the literature of the United States as reflected in the work and lives of the most relevant authors of the early colonial period and its further development in the 18th and 19 th centuries, with particular attention to the various religious, political and cultural phenomena that have produced the contemporary American character.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that students have sufficient knowledge of English to read and understand the primary and secondary texts required for the subject.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1000 - Degree in English Studies

Apply ICT and computer programs, either locally or through a network, in the field of English Studies.

Demonstrate, within the field of English Studies, an ethical attitude that focuses on aspects such as gender equality, equal opportunities, the values of the culture of peace and democracy and a sensitiveness regarding environmental problems and sustainability while, at the same time, knowing about and being able to appreciate linguist diversity and multiculturality.

Demonstrate communicative and social competence in the English language (oral and written comprehension and expression, communicative interaction and mediation that includes correct grammar and style).

Develop a critical ability to explain literary texts in English and to identify aesthetic conventions, movements, periods, genres, authors and works in English language and their modes of production.

Have and apply general knowledge in humanistic areas related to this field of study.

Know and apply the currents and methodologies of literary theory and criticism.

Relate geographical and historical aspects and the most relevant institutions in the Anglophone world to contemporary society and culture.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. **Part I: Colonial Period and Puritanism**
Authors and texts from this period will be discussed, as well as their historical and literary context.
2. **Part II: Enlightenment and Revolution**
Authors and texts from this period will be discussed, as well as their historical and literary context.
3. **Part III: Slavery and other Literatures**
Authors and texts from this period will be discussed, as well as their historical and literary context.
4. **Part IV: Romanticism**
Authors and texts from this period will be discussed, as well as their historical and literary context.

Having completed this course successfully, students will accomplish the following **learning outcomes:**
1. Apply concepts and knowledge related to the aesthetic conventions, evolution, modes of production, and the reception of works, genres, and movements in North American literature.
2. Identify passages from literary works they have read during the course or seen in class.
3. Evaluate the meaning and significance of these passages within their respective works.
4. Write a stylistic commentary on a passage or a short text.
5. Explicate, interpret, or criticize a literary text from the United States using various methodological approaches.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	60,00
Total hours	**60,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	60,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**90,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Theory-based classes: This subject will be structured around lecture classes that aim to provide the necessary historical and cultural context for each movement or period under consideration, and commentary and group discussion of representative texts included in the reading list.
Practical classes: Group discussion of all representative texts of each unit.
Sustainable Development Goals: Gender perspective, racial matters, colonialism, and other inclusive topics discussed in class are included in the SDGs:
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
Teaching Innovation Projects: during this academic year, a pilot innovation project will be developed in one group with some universities of the Forthem Alliance.

EVALUATION

Assessment in the **FIRST CALL** will be made up of 2 parts:

a) Individual written examination: 80 %
b) Optional essays or other tasks related to specific texts and authors from the reading list included in the written exams: 20%

Assessment in the **SECOND CALL** will be an individual written exam. The final mark will be the result of this exam.*

*No marks achieved in the exam, essays, or tasks will be carried over to the retake.

To pass the subject, students need to get at least a 5,0 out of 10.
Assessment Criteria:
The questions will evaluate both theoretical and practical aspects of the course to
1) to assess the students' assimilation of knowledge and concepts imparted during lectures and
2) to assess her/his understanding of and critical response to texts studied in class as reflected in the ability to manage the appropriate methods and techniques of analysis.
Plagiarism will not be tolerated; it is a serious academic offence. Any student who is found to have plagiarised his/her work will face serious consequences which could lead to failing the subject.
Intellectual honesty is vital in academic communities and for the fair assessment of students' work. All work submitted for this course must be original. Work involving fraudulent collaboration will not be accepted, in accordance with the "Protocol on dealing with fraudulent practices at the University of Valencia", approved by the Governing Council on 14 July 2020. ACGIV 123/2020. The use of artificial intelligence tools must comply with the provisions of the "Code of Practice for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Teaching and Assessment Activities at the Universitat de València" or any regulations that may replace them.
The teaching staff reserves the right to request an interview if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that artificial intelligence has been used fraudulently in the completion of any assessed task.
Spelling and grammar correction will be required in both the exam and the practical exercises. Any spelling, typographical, or stylistic errors may result in a reduction in the grade obtained.
The general grading system will follow the regulations of the Universitat de València on assessment and grading, approved by the Governing Council on May 30, 2017 (ACGUV 108/2017).
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REFERENCES

MATERIALS:
***American Literature from its Origins to the Nineteenth Century,* ed. Elena Ortells. València: JPM, 2016.**
1. **BASIC**
Bercovitch, Sacvan (gen. ed.). *The Cambridge History of American Literature. Vol.* 1 1590-1820. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1995.
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Bradbury, Malcom. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature*. Malcolm Bradbury & Richard Ruland. London, 1991.
Davis, Charles T. & Henry Louis Gates, Jr., eds. *The Slave¿s Narrative.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
Elliott, Emory, et. al. (ed.) *The Columbia Literary History of the United States.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. Ed. española: Historia de la literatura norteamericana, Madrid, Cátedra, 1991.
------. *The Columbia History of the American Novel.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1991.
Fredrickson, George M. *The Black Image in the White Mind: The Debate on Afro-American Character and Destiny 1817-1914.* New York, Harper & Row, 1971.
Manuel Cuenca, Carme. *Guía bibliográfica para el estudio de la literatura de los Estados Unidos.* València: Publicacions de la Universitat de València, 2002.
_____. *La literatura de Estados Unidos desde sus orígenes hasta la Primera Guerra Mundial.* Madrid: Editorial Síntesis, 2006.

Parini, Jay and Brett C. Millier (eds.). *The Columbia History of American Poetry*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993.

2. **COMPLEMENTARY**:

Andrews, William L. *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760-1865.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986.

Bell, Bernard W. *The Afro-American Novel and Its Tradition*. Amherst, Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts Press, 1987.

Davidson, Cathy N. *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the American Novel in America.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Engle, Ron and Tice L. Miller (eds.). *The American Stage: Social and Economic Issues from the Colonial Period to the Present.* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literature*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1988.

Grimsted, David. *Melodrama Unveiled: American Theater and Culture, 1800-1850.* Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, University of California Press, 1987.

Krupat, Arnold. *The Voice in the Margin: Native American Literature and the Canon.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.

Llàcer, Eusebio V. *El placer estético del terror: tres cuentos de Edgar Allan Poe*. València: Servei de Publicacions de la Universitat de València, 2022.

Nelson, Dana D. *The Word in Black and White: Reading `Race¿ in American Literature, 1638-1867*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.