

**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 19th 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**

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.

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 to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of the student's work. All work submitted in this course must be originally authored by every student. No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

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).

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.

----- *The Cambridge History of American Literature. Vol. 2 1820-1865*. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1995.

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.