

Revised: Fall 2014
Fall 2015
Fall 2016

ENG 241

Survey of American Literature I

COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisites: [ENG 111](#), [ENG 112](#)

Course Description:

VCCS Course Description: Examines American literary works from colonial times to the present, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of our national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. Prerequisite ENG 112 or divisional approval. Part I of II. Lecture 3 hours per week. 3 credits.

VWCC Course Description: American Literature I begins with the histories, sermons, and poems of the Puritans and concludes with the works of the Romantics and the Transcendentalists. Students will become acquainted with the influences that have helped shape our unique, evolving American literature. Students will also recognize common themes and techniques by examining the writing of American authors.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3

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Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate the historical, cultural, and intellectual currents that have contributed to the rise of America and the development of American literature
- Identify the major themes and characteristics of early American literature
- Exhibit the ability to think critically about readings in class discussions, tests, and papers
- Write effective analytical essays about early American prose and poetry

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Required Materials:

1. Internet access
2. Blackboard
3. Textbook

Textbook:

1. Belasco, Susan, and Linck Johnson, eds. *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. 1 2nd ed.: Beginnings to 1865. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. ISBN# 978-0-312-67868-5
2. Outside novel (optional) from the list below.

The following supplementary materials are available:

Instructors may choose to include an outside novel from the following list:

1. Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.
2. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlett Letter*.
3. Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
4. Foster, Hannah Webster. *The Coquette*.

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Topical Description:

- Introduction to the Course
- Unit One: Native Americans and Explorers
- Unit Two: Colonial Lives and Literature
- Unit Three: American Renaissance
- Unit Four: American Facts and Fiction

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