

# Virginia Western Community College

## ENG 241

### Survey of American Literature I

#### **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**

## **Required Materials**

1. Internet access
  2. Blackboard
  3. Textbook
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1. Belasco, Susan, and Linck Johnson, eds. *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. 1 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.: Beginnings to 1865. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. ISBN# 978-0-312-67868-5
  2. Outside novel (optional), instructor's choice of several.

### **Other Required Materials:**

Novel-Instructor's choice from approved novel selections.

## **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

## **Topical Description**

1	Introduction to the course
2	Unit One: Native Americans and Explorers
3	Unit Two: Colonial Lives and Literature
4	Unit Three: American Renaissance
5	Unit Four: American Facts and Fiction

## **Notes to Instructors**