

# Virginia Western Community College

## ENG 246

### American Literature

#### **Prerequisites**

ENG 112, ENG 113, or departmental approval

#### **Course Description**

Examines American literary traditions and texts from diverse time periods, genres, and authors. Analyzes literary works within their historical, cultural, social, and/or literary contexts. Emphasizes skills of close reading. Develops critical thinking and interpretive skills through discussion, interpretation, and analysis of these texts.

#### **General Course Purpose**

ENG 246 introduces students to texts and traditions within American literature. This course requires close reading, interpretation, and analysis.

**Semester Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3**

#### **Required Materials**

1. Internet access
2. Canvas

#### **Textbook:**

[\*Let's Get Writing\*](#)-- online textbook

[VCU Writes Citation guide](#) or comparable open educational resource as chosen by instructor.

[American Literature I: An Anthology of Texts from Early America Through the Civil War](#) – OER textbook

[Writing the Nation: A Concise Introduction to American Literature 1865 to Present](#) – OER Textbook

Additional Open Educational Resources

#### **Other Required Materials:**

None

**Course Outcomes**

Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and interpret information, ideas and arguments from a variety of perspectives (including the written arguments of others) to analyze complex issues related to literature</li> <li>• Interpret and combine information to reach and/or evaluate well-reasoned conclusions about literature</li> </ul>
Communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the complex ideas of others, as they relate to literature and its traditions</li> <li>• Develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing that focuses on literary analysis</li> <li>• Develop writing that is appropriate to a given context and for a specific audience</li> </ul>
Cultural and Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the impact of culture across local, national, and global literary communities</li> <li>• Develop knowledge and civic values, within a humanities framework, that are necessary for contributing to civic life and the well-being of local, national, and global literary communities</li> </ul>
Literary Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe salient features of writers, literary movements, genres and/or texts within the American literary tradition.</li> </ul>
Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct and explore meaningful questions about diverse human experiences through literary study</li> </ul>
Historical and social contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain connections between literary texts and related historical, social, and literary contexts</li> </ul>
Close Reading and Literary Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze literary texts using appropriate vocabulary and a variety of methodological approaches and perspectives, exploring the ways literary texts reflect and challenge cultural values and beliefs</li> <li>• Support interpretations of literary texts with valid textual evidence and use scholarly sources as appropriate to inform inquiry into literary texts</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compose literary analysis that is well-organized and features substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas with appropriate documentation</li> </ul>

