

## **AL 311.02**

### **Survey of American Literature**

Fall 2017, Cihan Yurdaün, [cihan.yurdaun@boun.edu.tr](mailto:cihan.yurdaun@boun.edu.tr)

Office: TB 425, Office Hours: Tuesday 14:00-15:00, Friday: 15:00-16:00

#### **Course Description:**

This is the first leg of a survey course and covers North American literature written mostly between the mid-16th century and the mid-19th century. In this course we are going to mainly read selections from canonical figures of American Literature and study major topics and themes underlined by those authors in their historical context. Our primary aim is to trace the idea/concept of the “American” as it develops in time and explore some of the prominent questions/problems it raises in/through literature.

#### **Class Requirements:**

- Read the **assigned material for each week**, including the documents uploaded to **Moodle**, and come to class prepared. You can find all **the primary texts** in your course packet.
- There will be **unannounced quizzes/response papers** on the assigned **almost every week** readings.
- There is going to be a **short writing assignment** on a topic of your choice.
- **Attendance** is required and you need to attend **%80** of the classes in order to be able to take the final exam.
- Although there will be occasional lectures, the class will be held in a seminar fashion. Therefore, **participation in class discussions** is a significant part of this course and might **boost your final grade up to %5**.
- There will be one **Midterm** and a **Final exam**.

#### **Your grade will be determined by the following criteria:**

- Quizzes %20
- Assignment %10
- Midterm %30
- Final %40

#### **Class Policy:**

- I will maintain an “open-door” policy during the office hours. You may come to discuss any aspect of the course. **You do not need an appointment**. If you wish to see me outside those posted hours, please make a prior appointment in advance via email. **You can always email me**; please do not hesitate.

**Week 1**  
19,22 September

Introduction – Pre-colonial & Colonial Literature  
**Native American Literature, C. Columbus**

**Week 2**  
26,29 September

Colonial Literature  
**John Smith, W. Bradford, J. Edwards, Cotton Mather,**  
**Anne Bradstreet** selected poems

**Week 3**  
3,6 October

Democratic Origins and Revolutionary Writers  
**Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, St. John de Crèvecoeur**

**Week 4**  
10,13 October

Fiction of the New Nation  
**Washington Irving**, “Rip Van Winkle”,  
**J.F. Cooper**, from *The Last of the Mohicans*

**Week 5**  
17, 20 October

American Romanticism - Transcendentalism  
**R.W. Emerson**, “Nature”, “Self Reliance”

**Week 6**  
24, 27 October

American Romanticism - Transcendentalism  
**H. Thoreau** from *Walden, Civil Disobedience*

**Week 7**  
31 Oct, 3 Nov.

Romantic Period Fiction & Poetry  
**Edgar Allen Poe**, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, “Annabel Lee”

**Week 8**  
7,10 November

Romantic Period Fiction  
**N. Hawthorne**, “Young Goodman Brown”, “The Minister’s Black Veil”

**Week 9**  
14,17 November

Romantic Period Fiction  
**Herman Melville**, *Benito Cereno*, from *Moby Dick*

**Week 10**  
21,24 November

Romantic Period Poetry  
**Emily Dickinson**, selected poems

**Week 11**  
28 Nov; 1 Dec.

Romantic Period Poetry  
**Walt Whitman**, “Song of Myself”, “I Hear America Singing”

**Week 12**  
5,8 December

Romantic Period Slave Narratives  
**Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass**

**Week 13**  
12,15 December

The Rise of Realism  
**Mark Twain**, from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*