

AL 311.01

Survey of American Literature

Fall 2018, Cihan Yurdaün, cihan.yurdaun@boun.edu.tr

Office: TB 425

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-13:00, Friday: 13:00-14:00

Course Description:

This is the first leg of a survey course and covers North American literature written mostly between the mid-16th and the mid-19th centuries. 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 study the unique aspects of American literature, as it develops over time, and explore some of the prominent questions it raises.

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** on the assigned readings **almost every week**.
- You are going to write at least three **response papers** on topics and works we discuss in class.
- **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**.

Your grade will be determined by the following criteria:

- Quizzes & Response Papers %30
- 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.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 21 September	Introduction – Pre-colonial & Colonial Literature
Week 2 25,28 September	<u>Colonial Literature</u> Native American Literature, C. Columbus, John Smith, W. Bradford,
Week 3 2,5 October	<u>Colonial Literature</u> J. Edwards, Cotton Mather, Anne Bradstreet selected poems
Week 4 9,12 October	<u>Democratic Origins and Revolutionary Writers</u> Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, St. John de Crèvecoeur
Week 5 16, 19 October	<u>Fiction of the New Nation</u> Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”
Week 6 23, 26 October	<u>American Romanticism - Transcendentalism</u> R.W. Emerson, “Nature”, “Self Reliance”
Week 7 31 Oct, 2 Nov.	<u>American Romanticism - Transcendentalism</u> H. Thoreau from <i>Walden, Civil Disobedience</i>
Week 8 6,9 November	<u>Romantic Period Fiction & Poetry</u> Edgar Allen Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, “Annabel Lee”
Week 9 13,16 November	<u>Romantic Period Fiction</u> N. Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”, “The Minister’s Black Veil”
Week 10 20,23 November	<u>Romantic Period Fiction</u> Herman Melville, from <i>Moby Dick</i>
Week 11 27, 30 Nov	<u>Romantic Period Poetry</u> Emily Dickinson, selected poems
Week 12 4,7 December	<u>Romantic Period Poetry</u> Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself”, “I Hear America Singing”
Week 13 11,14 December	<u>Romantic Period Slave Narratives</u> Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass
Week 14 18 December	<u>The Rise of Realism</u> Mark Twain, from <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>