ARTS2035

American Literature: Past and Present

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sigi Jottkandt	s.jottkandt@unsw.edu.au	Thursdays 3-4	Webster 311J	0293856813

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Tamlyn Avery	tamlyn.avery@unsw.edu.au			

School Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Website: https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au

The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *English*

This course provides a rich survey of the major movements and dynamics of American literature, situating some of the most significant works of American prose and poetry within historical and social frameworks.

The course is structured around coherent modules that juxtapose contemporary and historical texts, and argue for a distinctive national tradition. Themed modules such as 'Roads' and 'Outsiders' will blend primary with secondary reading materials and construct a compelling literary and critical portrait of the world's most powerful nation.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify, describe and critically evaluate major developments in American literature
2. Gain insight into the concept of 'America' in a variety of its applications
3. Develop an awareness of the relationship between American literature and other dynamics in 19th and 20th century American society, including racial, sexual and class inequality
4. Explain key themes in American literary studies
5. Write and speak about American literature in a way that is appropriate to the academic discipline of English

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

This course introduces students to some of the major works of the American canon - as well as some less respectable and more challenging texts - from the period of early European exploration to the later half of the 20th century. We have chosen texts that seem exemplarily to promote an understanding of key social and political trends in American cultural life. The course uses the theme of a road-trip as an organizing point to explore topics such as the Puritan experience, American exceptionalism, revolution and the Civil War, the philosophy and aesthetics of American transcendentalism, the Gilded Age, industrialism and the rise of consumerism, suburbia, multiculturalism and other issues. Particular attention will be paid to questions of race and gender as well as authorship and representation. The idea of the course is that by examining the literary record through the lens of American '??place'?□ in different historical periods, we can note the persistence, mutation and transformation of genres, styles and forms.

Teaching Strategies:

The teaching methods used and the assessment components you are required to complete have been developed to reflect a philosophy of learning and teaching which

- fosters an engaging and inclusive learning experience
- promotes dialogical teaching through tutorial discussions

- seeks to give every student a stake in, and an opportunity to contribute to, the course as a forum for learning.

Lectures, tutorials and assessment in this course should give you the skills necessary to perform intelligent, independent readings of American literary texts and to communicate those readings in cogent speech and prose

Assessment

We favour the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition, for all style and referencing matters.

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

We also like to see a strong independent voice in all written tasks. Find confidence in your own views and judgements, while testing them against the ideas of other critics and thiunkers.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Exam	40%	29/11/2019 05:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5
Minor Writing Assignment	15%	22/11/2019 05:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Research Essay	45%	21/10/2019 05:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Take-home examination set in the formal examination period. The exam will consist of two equal parts over the equivalent of two hours. This is the final assessment task.Brief written comments and marksheet grid with criteria provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Minor Writing Assignment

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1000

Details: 1000 words.Brief written comments and marksheet grid with criteria provided.

Submission notes: Looking for America class project

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Research Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2500

Details: 2500 words. Written comments and marksheet grid with criteria provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings. In addition, students must complete 6 out of the 8 Online Activity modules for posting on the 'Looking for America' class project.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	Introduction and Walt Whitman
	Tutorial	Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself" from *Leaves of Grass* (1855)
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" (1853) and "Benito Cereno" (1855)
	Tutorial	Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" (1853) and "Benito Cereno" (1855)
	Online Activity	American Transcendentalism
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* (1845)
	Tutorial	Douglass, *Narrative* (1845)
	Online Activity	American Jeremiad
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Lecture	Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter: A Romance* (1850)
	Tutorial	Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
	Online Activity	American Puritans
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (1920)
	Tutorial	Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
	Online Activity	American Innocence
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Lecture	Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood* (1966)
	Tutorial	Capote, *In Cold Blood*
	Online Activity	Southern Gothic
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Lecture	Emily Dickinson poems
	Tutorial	Dickinson poems
	Online Activity	American Otherness
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Lecture	Allen Ginsburg "Howl" (1956) and "Language" poetry
	Tutorial	Allen Ginsburg "Howl" (1956) and "Language" poetry
	Online Activity	The Beat generation
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Lecture	Rachel Kushner, *The Flamethrowers* (2013)
	Tutorial	Kushner, *The Flamethrowers*
	Online Activity	American Bohemia

| Week 10: 18 November - 22 November | Lecture | Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric* (2014) |
| | Tutorial | Rankine, *Citizen* |

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Some of these will be found on the course Moodle site. The rest are available throgh the bookstore.

Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood* (1966)
Emily Dickinson, selected poems [Moodle]
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1845) [Moodle]
Allen Ginsburg, "Howl" (1956) [Moodle] and Language poetry, selected poems [Moodle]
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)
Rachel Kushner, *The Flamethrowers* (2013)
Herman Melville, Bartleby the Scrivener, Benito Cereno (1856)
Claudia Rankine, *Citizen* (2014)
Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (1920)
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Gras*s (1855) [Moodle]

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

We regularly revise and update this course, partly in response to student feedback and contributions. Please feel free to make suggestions to the course authority.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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