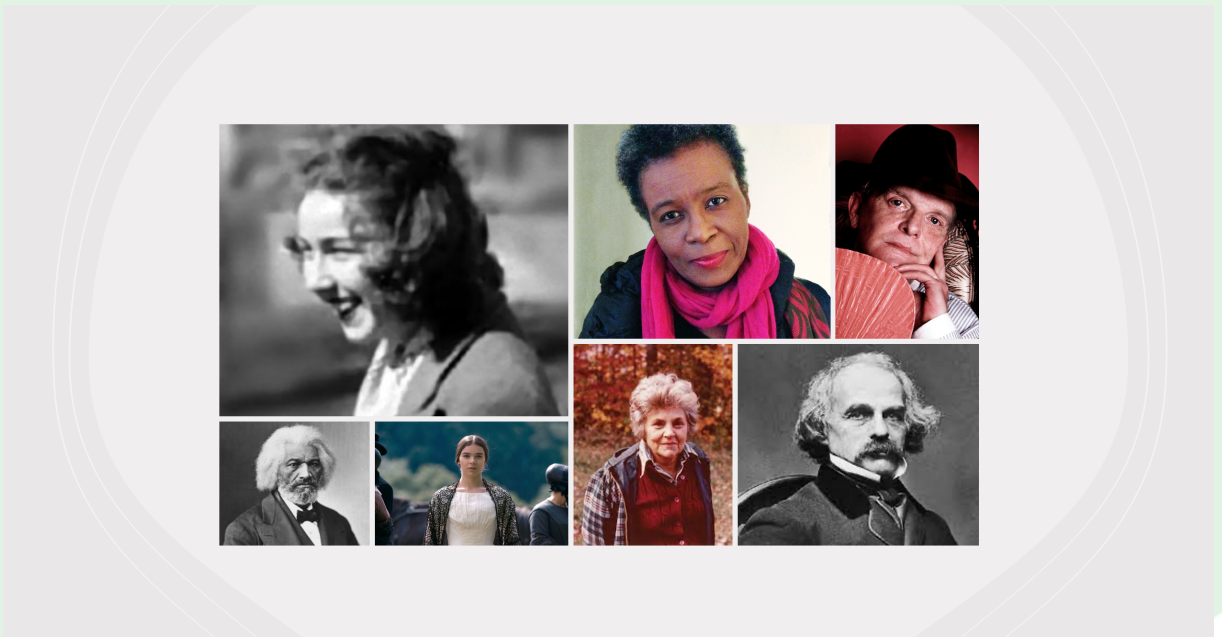


ARTS2035

American Literature: Past and Present

Term 3, 2021



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr James Dutton	j.dutton@unsw.edu.au	By appointment		

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Room 312, Level 3, Robert Webster Building (G14)

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

This course offers a wide-ranging survey of American fiction and poetry. Our texts will be drawn from a range of historical periods, but we will pay especially close attention to the American century—the twentieth—and its aftermath. How, we will ask, are the defining fault-lines and contradictions of contemporary American society reflected in its literature? How have American writers responded to the historical vectors that shaped America's present and what handle can novels, short stories, poems and other literary forms give us on the defining tensions of the American experiment? We will read classic works from the American canon alongside the best contemporary writing in order both to navigate a path through the complex literary history of the United States and construct an imaginary portrait of the world's most powerful nation.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify, describe and critically evaluate major developments in American literature
2. Discuss the concept of 'America' in a variety of its applications
3. Explain 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

Teaching Strategies

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 will 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

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Take Home Exam	35%	Exam period - date TBA	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Social annotation activity	15%	See Moodle	2, 3
3. Essay	50%	See Moodle	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Take Home Exam

Due date: Exam period - date TBA

Take-home examination.

1500 -words.

Feedback via LMS.

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

Assessment 2: Social annotation activity

Submission notes: Through Moodle

Due date: See Moodle

Students make a number of annotations on set texts and readings across the course of the term. Collectively, these will comprise no more than 500 words and will be assessed at term's end.

Feedback via LMS

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

See Moodle for further details on this assessment.

Assessment 3: Essay

Assessment length: 2000

Due date: See Moodle

2000 words.

Feedback via LMS

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.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 13 September - 17 September	Lecture	Introduction + Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen</i>
	Tutorial	Introduction + Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen</i>
Week 2: 20 September - 24 September	Lecture	Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> (1845)
	Tutorial	Frederic Douglass
Week 3: 27 September - 1 October	Lecture	Herman Melville, <i>Benito Cereno</i>
	Tutorial	Melville
Week 4: 4 October - 8 October	Lecture	Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter: A Romance</i> (1850)
	Tutorial	Hawthorne
Week 5: 11 October - 15 October	Lecture	Flannery O'Connor, <i>A Good Man is Hard to Find and other short stories</i>
	Tutorial	O'Connor
Week 6: 18 October - 22 October	Reading	Reading Week (no lecture or tute)
Week 7: 25 October - 29 October	Lecture	Truman Capote, <i>In Cold Blood</i> (1966)
	Tutorial	Capote
Week 8: 1 November - 5 November	Lecture	Walt Whitman
	Tutorial	Walt Whitman
Week 9: 8 November - 12 November	Lecture	Emily Dickinson
	Tutorial	Dickinson
Week 10: 15 November - 19 November	Lecture	Elizabeth Bishop, (poems on Moodle)
	Tutorial	Bishop

Resources

Prescribed Resources

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

Elizabeth Bishop (selected poems [Moodle])

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]

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)

Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find and other short stories* (2016)

Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (1856)

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen* (2014)

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (1855 and 1891) [Moodle]

Recommended Resources

See Moodle

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 convenor, tutors or student representatives in the course.

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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/>

Image Credit

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