COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number  Course Title  Credits
ENG205  American Literature I  3

Hours:  Co- or Pre-requisite  Implementation
lecture/Lab/Other  sem/year
3  

Catalog description (2011-2013 Catalog)

Introduction to and selective study of authors representing the enduring traditions and styles of American literature from the Puritan period through the Civil War

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? No

Required texts/other materials:


Revision date:  Course coordinator: (Name, telephone number, email address)
February 2013  Diane Rizzo

LA 120
rizzod@mccc.edu
609-570-3830

Information resources: Books, DVDs, electronic databases, websites, MCCC library.
Other learning resources:

Course Competencies/Goals:

The student will be able to:

1. Understand the diverse origins of American literature. (Gen Ed Goals 6 & 8; Core Skills B, C & F)

2. Distinguish and identify the literary genres of early American texts. (Gen Ed Goal 6; Core Skills A, B & F)

3. Situate early American literary texts in their cultural and historical contexts. (Gen Ed Goal 6 & 8; Core Skills A, B, C & F)

4. Develop close reading skills as a means of literary analysis. (Gen Ed Goal 6; Core Skills A, B, C & F)

5. Create essays that critically engage the themes of the course, with at least one essay that applies research-based analysis. (Gen Ed Goal 6; Core Skills A, B, C D, F & G)

Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills.

General Education Knowledge Goals

Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

Goal 8. Diversity. Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.


MCCC Core Skills

Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.

Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making. Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.
**Goal D. Information Literacy.** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

**Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation.** Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

**Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility.** Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

---

**Unit I  Origins of American Literature**

**Learning Objectives**

_The student will be able to…_

- Understand the origins of early American texts. (Course Goals 1, 3)
- Explore the writings of and about indigenous persons. (Course Goals 1, 3)
- Develop an awareness of the conventions of narrative. (Course Goals 2, 4)

---

**Unit II  Literature of the Colonial Period**

**Learning Objectives**

_The student will be able to…_

- Understand the works produced in Puritan New England. (Course Goals 1, 3, 4)
- Examine religious ideology as it pertains to early American texts. (Course Goals 1, 3)
- Understand the relevance of gender in narratives of the developing colonies. (Course Goals 1, 3)

---

**Unit III  Literature in the Revolutionary Period**

**Learning Objectives**

_The student will be able to…_

- Understand the conventions of literature produced during the republican period. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3)
- Appreciate the notion of political writings as literature. (Course Goals 1, 2)
- Trace the development of narrative voice and its relationship to national identity. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

---

**Unit IV  Race and Literature**

**Learning Objectives**

_The student will be able to…_

- Recognize the racial dimension of early texts. (Course Goals 1, 3, 4)
- Identify and understand slave narratives as a literary genre. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3)
- Consider the political and cultural implications of texts discussing race. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3)

---

**Unit V  The Development of Short Fiction**

**Learning Objectives**

_The student will be able to…_

- Appreciate the origins of a specifically American form of fiction. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3)
- Examine the themes prevalent in early American texts. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)
Unit V  The Development of the American Novel

Learning Objectives
• Understand the development of the American novel as a literary artifact. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3)
• Evaluate the themes and arguments that prevail in the early American novel. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Unit VI  Nineteenth Century American Poetry

Learning Objectives
The student will be able to...
• Distinguish poetry from prose writing. (Course Goals 2, 3)
• Examine the characteristics of poetry. (Course Goals 2, 3)
• Explore the works of writers such as Whitman and Dickinson. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3)

Evaluation of student learning:
Attendance and Participation: 10%
(Core Skills F)

Paper 1: 10%
Students will produce essays that demonstrate close readings of early American texts. Essays will further demonstrate an awareness of the contexts in which those texts were produced. (Course Goals 2, 4)

Paper 2: 15%
Students will produce essays that demonstrate close readings of early American texts. Essays will further demonstrate an awareness of the contexts in which those texts were produced and an understanding of the origins and genres of the selected texts. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Paper 3: 20%
Students will produce essays that demonstrate close readings of early American texts. Essays will further demonstrate an awareness of the contexts in which those texts were produced, and will demonstrate an understanding of the themes of the course. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Paper 4 20%
Students will produce essays that demonstrate close readings of early American texts. Essays will further demonstrate an awareness of the contexts in which those texts were produced. (Course Goals 2, 4)

Paper 5 25%
Students will produce a documented paper that incorporates scholarly articles to inform the students’ own understanding of the course emphases and materials. Students will demonstrate close readings of early American texts as well as analysis of their selected scholarly sources. Essays will demonstrate an awareness of the contexts in which cited texts were produced. (Course Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
**Academic Integrity Statement:** Students will be expected to abide by all aspects of the Academic Integrity Policy.