

ENG122 American Literature and Culture

The course provides a general introduction to American literature, history, culture and politics from the 1600s up to the present time. It aims to develop the students' knowledge of the diversity of American culture and society, and increase their understanding of the basic premises for the development of literature, culture, and society. The required reading for the course covers surveys of literary periods and historical events, in addition to primary texts – both literary and non-literary – that are representative for their time periods.

While the course reading is demanding and presupposes a strong command of English, it is also an aim of the course to further develop the students' ability to express themselves in English, both orally and in writing.

Textbooks

The books listed below will be available at Akademika (student bookstore) at the beginning of the semester. Note that Akademika offers book packages at a reduced price.

The Norton Anthology of American Literature. Ed. Nina Baym et al. Shorter Eight Edition. Vols. 1 and 2. New York: Norton, 2013. (ISBN 978-0-393-91888-5; or ISBN 978-0-393-91886-1 and 978-0-393-91887-8)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Penguin Classics. London: Penguin, 2000. (ISBN 0141182636)

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. London: Vintage, 1994. (Note: stage play edition, not screenplay edition.) (ISBN 0679755330)

Coates, Ta-Nahisi. *Between the World and Me*. Melbourne: Text Publishing Company, 2015. (ISBN: 9781925240702)

Baldick, Chris. *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Oxford, 2008. (ISBN: 978-0-198-71544-3)

- **Study Guide, Part 1** and Part 2, with notes and questions for the texts discussed in the seminar classes and in some of the lectures (Mitt UiB at semester start)

Required Reading

1. Baldick, Chris. *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Oxford, 2008. (ISBN: 978-0-198-71544-3)

2. Primary Texts

Longer texts that have to be purchased separately at Akademika are marked (*). The rest of the texts are in *The Norton Anthology* (vol. 1 and 2), the Literature Kiosk, or in a folder on My UiB.

I. 17th and 18th Centuries (Colonial Period, Early Republic)

Winthrop, John. from "A Model of Christian Charity" (excerpt; from "Thus stands the cause ...") (*Norton 1*: 100–02).

Crèvecoeur, J. Hector St. John de. from "Letter III: What Is an American" (excerpt; to "... religion and language") (*Norton 1*: 309–19).

Franklin, Benjamin. from *The Autobiography* [Part Two] (excerpt; from "I had been religiously..." to "Thus far written at Passy, 1784") (*Norton 1*: 299–308).

II. 19th Century, before 1865 (American Romanticism)

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Each and All" (*Norton 1*: 505–508).

Whitman, Walt. "Song of Myself" (excerpts; 1881 version): poems 1, 2, 6, and 52 (*Norton 1*: 1024–25, 1028–29, 1067) (or *Norton 2*: 24–25, 27–28, 66) **and** "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer" (*Norton 1*: 1078)

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Fall of the House of Usher" (*Norton 1*: 702-714)

Melville, Herman. "Bartleby, the Scrivener" (*Norton 1*: 1102–28).

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (*Norton 1*: 938–1002).

Dickinson, Emily. No. 359: "A Bird came down the Walk—"; No. 591: "I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—"; and No. 598: "The Brain—is wider than the Sky—" (*Norton 1*: 1203, 1207–08).

III. 1865–1914 (*Period of Industrialization and Literary Realism*)

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (*Norton 2*: 105–281)

Crane, Stephen. "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" (Literature Kiosk).

Eastman, Charles Alexander/Ohiyesa. "Chapter 7: The Ghost Dance War," from *From the Deep Woods to Civilization* (Literature Kiosk).

Lee Chew, "The Biography of a Chinaman." Online:

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3650

Cather, Willa. "Neighbour Rosicky" (*Norton 2*: 679–699)

James, Henry. "Daisy Miller" (*Norton 2*: 327–365)

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper" (*Norton 2*: 485–497).

Du Bois, W.E.B. "1. Of Our Spiritual Strivings" (*Norton 2*: 533–538)

IV. 1914–1945 (*Literary Modernism*)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby* (Penguin, Akademika)

Hurston, Zora Neal. "How It Feels To Be Colored Me" (*Norton 2*: 940–43).

Pound, Ezra. "In a Station of the Metro" (*Norton 2*: 790) and "The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter" (*Norton 2*: 790–791)

Williams, William Carlos. "The Red Wheelbarrow" (*Norton 2*: 784), "This Is Just to Say" (*Norton 2*: 784–785)

Hayden, Robert. "Middle Passage" (*Norton 2*: 1188–1192)

Hemingway, Ernest. "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (*Norton 2*: 1021–37).

Faulkner, William. "Barn Burning" (*Norton 2*: 1004–1016)

V. 1945– (*Approaching Our Own Time*)

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman* (*Norton 2*: 1235–98).

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun* (Vintage, Akademika).

Cheever, John. "The Swimmer" (*Norton 2*: 1179–1186)

Berryman, John. "Dream Song" #29 (*Norton 2*: 1208)

Lowell, Robert. "Skunk Hour" (*Norton 2*: 1305–1306)

Plath, Sylvia. "Lady Lazarus" (*Norton 2*: 1418–20)

Carver, Raymond. "Cathedral" (*Norton 2*: 1495–1505).

Coates, Ta-Nahisi. *Between the World and Me* (Text Publishing, Akademika).

Díaz, Junot. "Drown" (*Norton 2*: 1666–1673)

2. Cultural Studies and Literary History

2.1. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, vols. 1–2

- all introductions to literary periods
- all introductions to the writers on the reading list
lectures and seminars

ENG122 American Literature and Culture

Lectures and Seminars, Fall Semester 2018

Lectures: *Place:* Auditorium A, Sydneshaugen school

Time: **Wednesdays** 10:15-12 and **Thursdays** (weeks 37, 44, 46)

Seminars: Days and times to be announced on Mitt UiB

Seminars: Seminars are led by the course lecturers (see below). Sign up for a seminar online; take a note of when and where your seminar group meets; prepare the listed readings in advance of each meeting.

Important information for the seminars is often provided via UiB email: it is therefore imperative that you check your UiB email regularly. ***You are responsible for all information publicized in this way: failure to monitor your email is NOT an excuse.***

Writers Workshop: This workshop focuses on academic writing, and includes things like formulating a thesis statement, argumentation, the use of supporting quotations, structuring an essay, analysis, and much more. The workshop is run by Fulbright Teaching Assistant Arielle Patricia Gillette and meets **Wednesdays** 12.15 – 14 and 14.15 – 16 (location will be announced on Mitt UiB).

Assigned readings for lectures and seminars: Read the primary and secondary texts listed below in preparation for each lecture and seminar. Most texts are in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature* (vols. 1 and 2), some longer texts you have to buy at Akademika (in a packet offered at a reduced price), and some are on Mitt UiB or the Literature Kiosk. See the complete List of Required Reading for more information).

Lecturers: Nafeesa Nichols, Robert Stark, Željka Švrljuga and Matthew Teutsch.

Week 34 LECTURE Aug. 22 MT	Introductory. From Colonial to Revolutionary America: Winthrop and Crèvecoeur	“Beginnings to 1700: Introduction” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 3–17) “John Winthrop” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 90–91) Winthrop, excerpt from “A Model of Christian Charity” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 100–102; from “Thus stands the cause . . .”) “American Literature 1700–1820: Introduction” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 157–167) “J. Hector St. John De Crèvecoeur” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 308–309) Crèvecoeur, “Letter III: What Is an American” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 309–319)
SEMINAR		NO SEMINAR THIS WEEK

Week 35 LECTURE Aug. 29 RS	Transcendentalism: Emerson and Whitman	“American Literature 1820–1865: Introduction” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 445–463) “Walt Whitman” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 1005–09; or 2: 20–23) Whitman, from “Song of Myself”; Sections 1, 2, 6 and 52 (<i>Norton</i> 1: 1024- 1025, 1067; or <i>Norton</i> 2: 24, 27-28, 66)
SEMINAR	Franklin	“American Literature 1700–1820: Introduction” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 157–1167) “Benjamin Franklin.” (<i>Norton</i> 1: 234–236) Franklin, excerpt from <i>Autobiography</i> (<i>Norton</i> 1: 299–308; from “I had been religiously . . .” to “Thus far written at Passy, 1784”)

Week 36 LECTURE Sept. 5 NN	The Old South; the Slave Narrative, an American Genre: Douglass	Transformation ...”; “Realism as Argument” (<i>Norton 2: 3-7, 14-16</i>) “Frederick Douglass” (<i>Norton 1: 934-938</i>) Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (<i>Norton 1: 938-1002</i>) “‘Renaissance,’ Reform, Conflict”; “The Small and Large World of American Writers, 1820-65” (<i>Norton 1: 454-463</i>)
SEMINAR	Emerson, Whitman and Dickinson	“American Literature 1820-1865: Introduction” (<i>Norton 1: 445-463</i>) “Emily Dickinson” (<i>Norton 1: 1189-1193</i>) Dickinson, poems no 359, 591, 598 (<i>Norton 1: 1203, 1207-1208</i>) “Ralph Waldo Emerson” (<i>Norton 1: 505-508</i>) Emerson, “Each and All” (<i>Norton 1: 581</i>) “Walt Whitman” (<i>Norton: 1: 1005-09; or Norton 2: 20-23</i>) Whitman, “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer” (<i>Norton 1: 1078</i>)

Week 37 LECTURE Sept. 12 RS	American Gothic: Poe	“Edgar Allan Poe” (<i>Norton 1: 683-687</i>) Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (<i>Norton 1:702-714</i>)
LECTURE Sept. 13 ŽŠ	American Renaissance: Melville	“Herman Melville” (<i>Norton 1: 1099-1102</i>) Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (<i>Norton 1: 1102-1128</i>)
SEMINAR	Manifest Destiny: Eastman	<i>Norton 2: “The Transformation of a Nation”</i> ; “Realism as Argument” (<i>Norton 2: 3-7, 14-16</i>) “Charles Alexander Eastman” (Mitt UiB) Eastman/Ohiyesa, <i>From the Deep Woods</i> (excerpt, Literature Kiosk)

Week 38 LECTURE Sept. 19 MT	Twain	“Mark Twain” (<i>Norton 2: 98-101</i>) <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (<i>Norton 2: 105-281</i>)
SEMINAR	The West: Crane	“Stephen Crane” (<i>Norton 2: 581-584</i>) Crane, “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky” (Literature Kiosk)

Week 39 LECTURE Sept. 26 NN	Immigrant Experience I: <i>E Pluribus Unum?</i>	<i>Norton 2, “Introduction”</i> (653-670) Lee Chew, “The Biography of a Chinaman” http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3650 “Willa Cather” (2: 677-679) Willa Cather, “Neighbour Rosicky” (<i>Norton 2: 679-699</i>)
SEMINAR	Twain	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (<i>Norton 2: 105-281</i>)

WEEKS 40 and 41: NO TEACHING

Voluntary papers (1500 words) due 12:00 on 13 October 2017

Detailed information will be provided in your seminar.

Week 42 LECTURE Oct. 17 ŽŠ	Literary Realism: James	“The Literary Marketplace”; “Forms of Realism and Naturalism”; “Realism and Naturalism” (<i>Norton 2: 7-12, 548-49</i>) “Henry James” (<i>Norton 2: 324-27</i>) James, “Daisy Miller” (<i>Norton 2: 327-365</i>)
SEMINAR	Gilman	<i>Norton 2: “Charlotte Perkins Gilman”</i> (<i>Norton 2: 484-485</i>) Gilman, “The Yellow Wall-paper” (<i>Norton 2: 485-497</i>)

Week 43 LECTURE Oct. 24 MT	Modern Fiction: Fitzgerald	<i>Norton 2: “American Literature 1914-1945”</i> (<i>Norton 2: 653-670</i>) <i>Norton: “F. Scott Fitzgerald”</i> (<i>Norton 2: 963-965</i>) F. Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
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Week 43 SEMINAR	The Black Experience: Du Bois The Harlem Renaissance: Hurston	<i>Norton</i> : “W. E. B. Du Bois” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 531–32) Du Bois, “1. Of Our Spiritual Strivings” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 533–538) <i>Norton</i> : “Zora Neal Hurston” (2: 939–940) “Hurston, “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 940–943)
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Week 44 LECTURE Oct. 31 RS	Modernist Poetry	“Ezra Pound” (2: 786-788) “In a Station of the Metro” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 790) and “The River-Merchant’s Wife: A Letter” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 790-791) “William Carlos Williams” (2: 777-779) “The Red Wheelbarrow” (784), “This Is Just to Say” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 784-785) “Robert Hayden” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1186-1188) “Middle Passage” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1188-1192)
Nov. 1 ŽŠ	Modernist Fiction: Hemingway	<i>Norton</i> : “Ernest Hemingway” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1019–21) Hemingway, “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1021-37)
SEMINAR	Writing the South: Faulkner	<i>Norton</i> : “American Literature 1914–1945” (2: 653–670) <i>Norton</i> : “William Faulkner” (2: 994–697) Faulkner, “Barn Burning” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1004–1016)

Week 45 LECTURE Nov. 7 ŽŠ	Modern Drama I: Miller	<i>Norton</i> : “Drama” (2: 668-670) <i>Norton</i> : “Arthur Miller” (2: 1232–1234) Miller, <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1235–1298)
SEMINAR	The Rise of the Suburb	“John Cheever” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1177-1178) Cheever, “The Swimmer” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1179-1186)

Week 46 LECTURE Nov. 14 MT	Black Drama	“American Literature Since 1945: Introduction” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1071-83) “Drama” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 668-70) Recommended: Nemiroff, “Introduction,” <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Hansberry, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> (Vintage) <i>Norton</i> : “Langston Hughes” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1037–38) Langston Hughes, “Harlem” (in <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>)
Nov. 15 RS	‘Confessional’ Poetry	<i>Norton</i> : “John Berryman” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1199-1201) Berryman, “Dream Song” #29 (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1208) “Robert Lowell” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1298-1300) Lowell, “Skunk Hour” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1305-1306) “Sylvia Plath” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1416-1418) Plath, “Lady Lazarus (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1418-1420)
SEMINAR	Contemporary Fiction: Carver	“Raymond Carver” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1494-95) Raymond Carver, “Cathedral” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1495-1505)

Week 47 LECTURE Nov. 21 RS	Black Lives Matter	Ta-Nahisi Coates, <i>Between the World and Me</i>
SEMINAR	Immigrant Experience II	<i>Norton</i> : “Junot Díaz” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1665-1666) Díaz, “Drown” (<i>Norton</i> 2: 1666-1673)

NOV. 29	SCHOOL EXAM (5 HOURS)	Time and place will be announced on <i>Mitt UiB</i>
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