

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	: Twentieth-Century American Literature
Course Code	: ENG3005
Recommended Study Year	: 3 rd or 4 th Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week : 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Discipline Elective (Contemporary Literary Strand)
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

Brief Course Description

This course is designed as a survey of twentieth-century American literature. It introduces students to canonical American literary texts (poetry, prose, fiction, and nonfiction) from 1900 to the present, focusing on the issues of modernism, experimentalism, pluralism, translation, and media. It projects a picture of American literature rooted in the translocal and translingual, a literature that is not confined to national, cultural, or linguistic boundaries.

Aims

The course aims to acquaint students with representative works while expanding the traditional canon. It teaches them how to interpret texts in historical and cultural contexts, but more importantly helps them appreciate literature as producers, not merely representations, of culture.

Learning Outcomes

The course learning outcomes are based on the expectation that students will be able to:

1. Interpret both traditional and experimental literary texts;
2. Illustrate the ways in which literature acts as a vanguard of social and cultural change;
3. Interpret the ways in which the making of a national literature is inseparable from cultural and linguistic infusions from the world;
4. Demonstrate skills of analysis required to make sense of literary texts in contexts;
5. Writing critically about literature.

Indicative Contents

- Introduction to the study of American literature
- Presentation of chosen texts to provide extensive and intensive readings and interpretation
- Necessary background to chosen texts
- Presentation of common critical vocabulary
- Strategies and techniques for speaking and writing about literature

Teaching Method

An introductory lecture will provide a framework for readings of chosen texts and sample methods for approaching literature. Subsequently, each lecture will introduce close readings of assigned texts, which the student are required to have read before attending the lecture. Lectures will be supplemented by slides, sound recordings, and videos of literary works and performances. Students are also required to lead the tutorials and present their views independently or in response to the lectures.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by continuous assessment on the students' engagement with the lectures, tutorial discussions, readings, presentations and written assignments. Students' knowledge of the selected texts will be assessed by a final examination at the end of the term.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods				
	Participation	Presentation	Short writing assignments	Final exam	Final essay
comprehend and interpret both traditional and experimental literary texts	x			x	x
illustrate the ways in which literature acts as a vanguard of social and cultural change	x		x	x	x
discuss the ways in which the making of a national literature is inseparable from cultural and		x			x

linguistic infusions from the world					
Demonstrate skills of analysis required to make sense of literary texts in contexts		x	x	x	x
Demonstrate the skills of writing critically about literature			x	x	x

Assessment

- Participation and attendance (10%)
- Presentation (10%)
- Short writing assignments (15%)
- Final exam (35%)
- Final essay (30%)

Required Readings

Nina Baym, ed., *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Volume D & E, 9th edition.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.