

Instructor: Bülgözdi Imola bulgozdi.imola@gmail.com	Office hours: Tue 15 -16 and Wed 11-12
American Literature 1. AN23000BA AN33000MA	BA 2nd year and teacher training
Wed 8 – 9.40	Rm: 55

“Fiction reveals truths that reality obscures.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Course description: The aim of this seminar is to introduce the most significant American authors of the 19th century through the analysis of works by Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain and Stephen Crane. The course will focus on representative poems, short stories and novels and will also feature group discussion of essays that have influenced mainstream American thought and writing.

Evaluation: based on

- short presentation of 5-7 minutes (15%)
- active in-class participation in group and class discussions (10%)
- film review of 450-500 words (10%)
- mid-term test (25%)
- end-term test (40%).

More than 3 absences will result in no mark, just like plagiarism!

Students should be advised that the quality of their written and spoken linguistic performance will count significantly toward their final mark.

Under the current regulations, the course is planned to be a face-to-face, classroom-based course, HOWEVER, if due to the pandemic we have to switch to remote teaching, PLEASE be prepared to use the University of Debrecen E-Learning system at elearning.unideb.hu. In case of such a switch, the course evaluation methods (e.g., for class participation) and grading rules may be subject to change. You will be notified of these changes by the instructor if needed.

It is our shared responsibility to observe effective hygiene rules and follow the relevant government, university and faculty regulations regarding the pandemic. If you become ill or experience any symptoms, please stay home to protect others from infection.

Schedule

Sep 9	Orientation
Sep 16	Edgar Allan Poe “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”
Sep 23	Edgar Allan Poe “The Raven,” “Annabel Lee” and “The Philosophy of Composition”

Sep 30	Nathaniel Hawthorne “Young Goodman Brown” and “My Kinsman, Major Molineaux”
Oct 7	Herman Melville “Rappaccini’s Daughter” and “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street”
Oct 14	Herman Melville “Benito Cereno”
Oct 21	Short mid-term test Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Self-Reliance”
Oct 28	Walt Whitman “Song of Myself,” “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking” Walt Whitman’s “Preface to the 1855 edition of <i>Leaves of Grass</i> ”
Nov 4	Consultation week
Nov 11	Mark Twain: <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Nov 18	Emily Dickinson 67, 211, 236, 303, 712, 986 Charlotte Perkins Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Nov 25	Stephen Crane: <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Dec 2	Discussion of <i>Dead Poets Society</i> (1989), dir. Peter Weir – film viewing home assignment: 450-500-word review of the film
Dec 9	End-term test Evaluation in exam period (check my webpage on the IEAS site for office hours)

Required readings:

19th-century American literature Course Packet + novels in library

Film viewing assignment:

Dead Poets Society (1989), dir. Peter Weir

General reference:

Virágos, Zs. K. *Portraits and Landmarks: The American Literary Culture in the 19th Century*. Debrecen: The Institute of English and American Studies, U of Debrecen, 2010.