



## **ACE American Literature (3 Semester Credits) – Course Syllabus**

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### **Description:**

*American Literature I* (1650–1860) examines significant literary works of early American and Puritan literature, the Enlightenment, American Romanticism, and pre-Civil War era. The course includes primary texts (many accompanied by video/audio options), historical background, literary criticism and interpretation, and instruction on writing about literature.

**Textbook:** *American Literature I* - Eidenmuller - Lumen Learning, 2018.  
(This text is provided to students as part of their enrollment.)

**Prerequisites:** No prerequisites

### **Course objectives:**

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Identify the key features of prose and poetry.
- Describe the major historical and cultural developments of colonial America.
- Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of Enlightenment literature.
- Explain the key concepts and terms of the Romantic period.
- Discuss the main conventions, tropes, and themes of Gothic literature, Romantic literature, transcendental literature, and abolitionist literature.
- Find and use historical sources and literary criticism in your analysis of literary works.

### **Course Evaluation Criteria**

A passing percentage is **70%** or higher.

### **Grading Scale**

A = 95-100%

B = 88-94.9%

C = 80-87.9%

D = 70-79.9%

F = Below 70%

### **ACE Course Retake Policy**

2 (two) attempts are allowed on every quiz, and 2 (two) attempts are allowed on every final exam.

### ***Proctorio* – Video Proctoring**

All Final Exams are video proctored with Proctorio. ([www.proctorio.com](http://www.proctorio.com))

## ADA Policy

Excel Education Systems is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment to all students, across all of its schools, in accordance with the 1990 Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There is a **total of 130 points** in this course:

### Grade Weighting

Chapter Quizzes	70%
Final Exam	30%
	100%

Assessment	Points Available	Percentage of Final Grade
Module 1 Quiz	20	17.5
Modules 2 and 3 Quiz	20	17.5
Module 4 Quiz	20	17.5
Module 5 Quiz	20	17.5
Final Exam	50	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>

## Course Contents and Objectives

<b>Module 1: Reading and Interpreting Literary Texts</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	How to Analyze a Short Story A Short History of the Early American Novel Approaching Poetry Free Verse Literary Terms: A Guide Literary Criticism
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the key features of prose</li><li>• Identify the key features of poetry</li><li>• Identify and describe the major critical approaches to literary interpretation: New Criticism/Formalism, Reader-Response, Feminism, and Marxism</li><li>• Have an awareness of the role of analysis to inform appreciation and understanding of poetry</li><li>• Be able to identify and discuss the main analytical concepts used in analyzing poetry</li></ul>

<b>Module 2: Early American and Puritan Literature (1650–1750)</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	A Model of Christian Charity Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God The Pilgrim's Progress Verses Upon the Burning of Our House
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the major historical and cultural developments of</li></ul>

	<p>colonial America; explain key concepts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of Puritan and early American literature; identify and discuss those features with regard to individual works appreciation and understanding of poetry.</li> <li>• Explain what the underlying point was of most literature written during the Great Awakening.</li> <li>• Describe the importance of literary works, such as <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>, to Christians leaving England for the New World.</li> </ul>
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<b>Module 3: Enlightenment Literature (1760–1820)</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	<p>Edwards and the Enlightenment Literature  American Puritism (I)  The American Enlightenment  American Puritism (III)  Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death  American Gothic (I)  American Transcendentalism (I)  Frederick Douglass  Reader-Response Criticism</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the major historical and cultural developments of the Enlightenment; explain key concepts.</li> <li>• Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of Enlightenment literature; identify and discuss those features with regard to individual authors/works.</li> </ul>

<b>Module 4: Romantic Literature (1820–1860)</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	<p>The Romantic Period, 1820-1860: Essayists and Poets  Thanatopsis  Wakefield  Song of Myself  The Use of Nature in American Gothic  The Indian Burying Ground  The Legend of Sleepy Hollow  The Raven  History of American Literature  The Second Great Awakening and Transcendentalism  Nature  The American Scholar  Self-Reliance  Walden: Economy  Walden: Where I Lived and What I Lived For  Walden: Conclusion  Women's Sphere and Emergence of the Women's Rights Movement  Women in the Nineteenth Century</p>

	Resistance and Abolition Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave Uncle Tom's Cabin
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the major historical and cultural developments of the Romantic period; explain key concepts and terms (e.g., the sentimental)</li> <li>• Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of Romantic literature; identify and discuss those features with regard to individual authors/works</li> <li>• Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of Gothic literature; identify and discuss those features with regard to individual authors/works</li> <li>• Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of transcendental literature; identify and discuss those features with regard to individual authors/works</li> <li>• Describe the major conventions, tropes, and themes of abolitionist literature and slave narratives; identify and discuss those features with regard to individual authors/works</li> </ul>

<b>Module 5: Writing About Literature</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	Distinguish Between Primary and Secondary Sources Annotated List of Useful Online Resources Using Databases: Periodical Indexes and Abstracts Annotated List of Useful Databases Finding Literary Criticism Using Modern Language Association (MLA) Style
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find and use historical sources to discuss the historical context of a literary work.</li> <li>• Find and use literary criticism in your analysis of literary works.</li> <li>• Cite sources correctly using MLA format.</li> <li>• Describe the difference between Primary and Secondary Sources.</li> <li>• Explain how Defining Questions are used to evaluate material for inclusion in the writing.</li> <li>• Explain how to use databases to find resources when writing.</li> <li>• Distinguish between Search Engines vs. Databases vs. Catalogs</li> <li>• Understand how to use and cite Print and Electronic Sources</li> <li>• Describe how determine the suitability and reliability of research sources.</li> <li>• Describe how Literary Criticism is effectively used in the writing process.</li> <li>• Identify the major components of a research paper written</li> </ul>

using MLA style.

- Apply general Modern Language Association (MLA) style and formatting conventions in a research paper.

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