



University of Kurdistan
Department of English

BA Program in English
Syllabus for American Literature
Spring 2019
Cyrus Amiri

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

- Identifying and exemplifying the essentially American literary forms and themes
- Reading American literary texts in the context of socio-historical changes

COURSE BOOKS:

High, Peter B. *An outline of American literature*. Longman, 2000.

Franklin, Wayne, et al. *The Norton Anthology American Literature*, Shorter 7th Edition, 2008.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Introduction I

- The American Tradition

Week 2: Introduction II

- Essentially American Themes and Forms

Week 3: What is an American?

- From: J. Hector St John De Crevecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*

Week 4: Colonial American Literature

- From Thomas Hariot's *Brief and True Account of the New Found Land of Virginia*

Week 5: The American Revolution I

- Jefferson's "Original Rough Draught" of the Declaration of Independence

Week 6: The American Revolution II

- From Thomas's Paine's *The Age of Reason*

Week 7: The American Renaissance I

- From Peter B. High: The American Renaissance & Transcendentalism

Week 8: The American Renaissance II

- From Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*

Week 9: The American Poet I

- Walt Whitman's "Preface" to *Leaves of Grass*

Week 10: The American poet II

- Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself"

Week 11: The Great American Novel

- From Hawthorne's *House of the Seven Gables*

Week 12: The American Play I

- A timeline of modern American Drama

Week 13: The American Play II

- Suzan Lori-Park's *The America Play*

Week 14: The American Play III

- Suzan Lori-Park's *The America Play*

Week 15: The New America

- Literature by diverse Diasporas

Week 16: Iranian-American Literature

- From F. Dumas's *Funny in Farsi*

Week 17: American Literature and World literature

Week 18: Conclusion and student seminars