

Common Course Outline

English 203 American Literature I 3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

American Literature I

Examines American literature from its beginnings to the Civil War; highlights the cultural, geographic, and literacy influences of each work.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a “C” or better.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context (III, V, 1, 4, 6).
2. Write a well informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support (II, III, VI, VII, 1, 7).
3. Access and apply relevant literary criticism found both in traditional sources and through the Internet (III, IV, VI, 2).
4. Work collaboratively on questions and problems related to the texts, and on developing and refining their written work (II, 1, 3).
5. Engage in critical/collaborative discussion about a text's relevance to life today, and whether and how contemporary readers can benefit from it (III, IV, V, VI, 3, 4, 5, 6).
6. Analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature (III, IV, V, 3, 4, 5, 6).
7. Analyze works of early American literature, including both canonical and non-canonical texts and texts representative of the wide diversity of racial and ethnic cultures that comprise the American literary tradition or traditions (I, V, 1, 3, 6, 7)
8. Identify the different ways in which the concept of an American literary tradition has been defined, and analyze the ways in which this concept has reflected and supported aesthetic and ethical values associated with American culture (I, V, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7)
9. Identify different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally defined, and

discuss ways in which these definitions have been challenged (I, IV, V, 1, 3, 5, 7)

10. incorporate literary criticism into their own textual analyses (I, II, III, VI, 1, 2)

Major Topics

(to be revised at the discretion of the instructor)

- . Native American Oral Literatures
- . The Colonial Period
- . The Revolutionary Period
- . Romanticism
- . The Literature of Slavery and Abolition
- . Sentimentalism and the Domestic Novel

Course Requirements (VII)

Grading procedures, exams and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor. However, all students will

1. participate actively in class discussions
2. write at least two essays and take at least one exam with an essay component, for a total of not less than 2500 words. At least one essay will address issues of race, class, and/or gender in American literature.
3. participate in at least two projects or in-class exercises that require collaborative work
4. present information orally to the class at least once during the semester

Other Course Information

