

American Literature Survey Course

Spring 2015

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Office hours: Tuesday, 12:45-13:45

Room: B-213

Topics for the exam

1. Colonial Period

(context, literary genres, features, key figures and their main works)

1.2 A detailed analysis of William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation* (chapters from the Norton Anthology) and M. Rowlandson: "A Narrative of Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson" (1, 2, 3, 12, 20th Remove)

2. The American Revolution, Nationmaking, The Age of Reason

(context, literary genres, features, key figures and their main works)

2.1 Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography* and Thomas Jefferson's *The Declaration of Independence*, Crèvecoeur's "Letters from an American Farmer"

3. American Romanticism

3.1. Washington Irving: "Rip Van Winkle"

3.2. James Fenimore Cooper: *The Last of the Mohicans*

4. The nay-sayers: the literature of Edgar Allan Poe

4.1 Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher", "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and the following poems: "The Raven", "Annabel Lee", "To Helen"

5. The Transcendentalists/The American Renaissance

5.1. R. W. Emerson's "Self-Reliance"

6. Late Romanticism, Abolitionism

6.1. Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*

6.2. Frederick Douglass: *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

7. Poets of the 19th Century: Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson

7.1. Walt Whitman: "Song of Myself"

7.2. Emily Dickinson: "Because I could not stop for Death", "I'm Nobody! Who are you?", "I heard a Fly buzz – when I died", "The Bustle in the House"

8. Realism and regionalism

8.1. Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

8.2. Kate Chopin: "The Storm"

9. Naturalism

9.1. Jack London: "To Build a Fire"

10. Modernism, the first half of the 20th century

10.1. E. Hemingway's "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"

10.2. F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*

11. The Harlem Renaissance

(context, literary genres, features, key figures and their main works)

11.1. Zora Neale Hurston: "How it Feels to Be Colored Me"

11.2. Langston Hughes: "I, too"