

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE PREFIX/NO: **ENG 201**
COURSE TITLE: **American Literature I**
LEC HRS/WEEK: 3.0
LAB HRS/WEEK: 0.0
CREDIT HRS/SEMESTER: 3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)
[Textbook Information](#)

Course description:

This course is a study of American literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War.

Course competencies:

To complete this course successfully, a student will be able to

1. Differentiate characteristics among the various genres.
2. Identify and utilize literary terms in discussions, writings/essays, and presentations.
3. Analyze and evaluate cultural, political, economic, social, and/or historical influences of the readings through discussions and writings.
4. Trace and discuss trends, recurring themes, and writing styles throughout the periods and genres.
5. Apply various principles of literary criticism and analysis to readings, discussions, and critical essays.
6. Compare and contrast characteristics of major literary figures.
7. Develop literary arguments(s) using MLA documentation through analyzing readings and synthesizing research from both traditional and electronic sources.

Module I Seventeenth Century and Earlier

- Native American civilizations and cultures
- Exploration and colonization
- Cultures and religious beliefs of early settlers
- Characteristics of oral literature
- Motives of early American writers
- Genres of early colonial literature
- Definition of canon

Module II Eighteenth Century

- Changes in themes as nation forms
- Impact of publishing on genres
- Influence of science and philosophy
- Formation of American literature
- Native American voices
- Major writers and their contributions

Module III Early to Mid-Nineteenth Century

- Writers' responses to slavery and oppression
- Writers' concern with industrialization and social changes
- Romanticism and major writers
- Naturalism and major writers
- Emphasis on creative genres

**The last module is set up differently in order to address specifically any research project required within the course.

Module IV Research Paper

- Develop an argumentative essay of 1,200 or more words using a minimum of five sources meeting requirements designated by the instructor.
- Utilize one or more forms of literary criticism
- Locate, critique, and synthesize source material.
- Use MLA documentation and formatting.
- Refine research project through instructor feedback.

Minimal standards:

Given an assignment, the student will demonstrate minimal course competencies as set by the department and/or the instructor. Assessment and feedback may be in the form of tests, grading checksheets, personal conferences, or written notations on the work. While a 60% grade average is required for passing, a 70% minimal average is required to transfer credit to most colleges.

Course requirements:

Attendance: Students are responsible for attending all scheduled class meetings and for material covered and all assignments. Any student who is not in attendance the required 80% of scheduled class time will be withdrawn. Absences are counted from the first scheduled class.

Ordinarily, late arrivals or early departures of fewer than 10 minutes constitute a tardy. Three tardies constitute one absence. Late arrivals or early departures of more than 10 minutes may constitute an absence.

Withdrawal from class: A student may withdraw from the class after the add/drop period until midterm and receive a grade of W. After midterm, the student must contact the instructor to have a Request for Withdrawal form completed. A grade of W or WF at the time of withdrawal will be determined by the situation or reason for withdrawal.

Assignments: Completion of the following assignments is required for, but does not guarantee, a passing grade: all major tests, an analytic research paper using MLA documentation (min. 1200 words and 5 sources), and an oral presentation. Each instructor will provide specific guidelines for his or her course.

Late or missed assignments: Any approved make-up, late, or revised work must be completed in a designated time and manner as directed by the instructor. An instructor may choose not to accept late or missed work or may limit the maximum credit allowed.

Other academic assistance or requirements: Any student who demonstrates a need for additional help may contact Student Services.

Academic integrity: Academic dishonesty includes using another's work without giving credit to the source and cheating of any type. "Any student caught cheating or involved in any other academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action" (York Technical College Handbook and Catalog).

Evaluation strategies/grading:

Modules I-III	50% - 65%
Classwork/Homework	10% - 20%
Research Paper	20%
Oral Presentation(s)	5% - 10%

Grade Scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = below 60

Entry-level skills: See prerequisites

Prerequisites: ENG 102 with a minimum grade of C

Co-requisites: None