

# Anoka-Ramsey Community College

## ENGL 2230: American Literature to 1865

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

(MnTC Goals 6 and 7)

Recommended Skills, Abilities, or Coursework: Successful completion of ENGL 1120/1121

Focus on American literature from its beginnings (c.a. 1600) to approximately 1865. Readings may include autobiographies, journals, sermons, and essays, as well as poetry and fiction. Students will gain a sense of the historical and cultural significance of the literature and will analyze, interpret, and evaluate the literary works.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 06/01/1998 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Study of works of American literature from three major periods: Colonial literature through 17th century literature, Early Republic and 18th century literature, and 19th century (through the Civil War) literature
2. The study of American literature in its varying forms--e.g., journals, diaries, essays, newspaper articles, political documents, sermons, poetry, short stories, and novels
3. Literary elements and devices
4. Critical and/or affective writing in response to American literature
5. Critical approaches to literature (may include, but not be limited to, reader-response, feminist, biographical, historical, psychological, deconstruction, archetypal, and new criticism)
6. Interpreting and evaluating literature, and developing support for these interpretations and evaluations
7. Recognizing the role of literature as a cultural, historical, political, and personal artifact
8. Recognizing race, ethnic group, gender, and class conflicts in American literature
9. Recognizing the contributions of "diverse"/"minority" writers to the American literature canon

## **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Read, discuss, analyze, interpret, and evaluate representative works of American literature from its beginnings to approximately 1865
2. Understand how the selected works of American literature studied reflect the characteristics and values of the people and times in which they were written
3. Recognize the important historical events and socio-political movements in the United States from the 1600s to the 1860s, particularly as these events shaped and are reflected in literature
4. Recognize how race, ethnic group, gender, and class differences in the United States both inform and are illustrated by literature, how these differences have reshaped the "traditional" American literature canon, and how literature can be used to discuss, understand, and appreciate these differences
5. Understand the literary characteristics of the Colonial Period, the Age of Reason and Revolution (the Enlightenment), and the Romantic Period
6. Place selected American authors within one or more literary periods
7. Recognize how writers who have been considered to be "minority" or "diverse" both resist and fit into the commonly accepted literary periods and appreciate what these writers contribute to the American literature canon
8. Understand the literary meanings of such concepts as Puritanism, Calvinism, Nature, Reason, Deism, Neoclassicism, Enlightenment, Gothic, Romanticism, Pantheism, and Transcendentalism
9. Appreciate the ways in which American literature helps us understand ourselves, other people, and the world around us
10. Analyze and discuss specific works of American literature using appropriate literary terminology to describe the technical elements of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and drama
11. Use various writing techniques to analyze literature
12. Use different critical approaches (such as historical criticism, biographical criticism, reader-response criticism, feminist criticism, psychoanalytic criticism, etc.) to analyze, interpret, and evaluate selected works of American literature
13. Read selected works of American literature and present, through activities such as group discussion, journals, response papers, critical essays, reviews, and examinations a personal interpretation and/or evaluation of the selected works of literature

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted