

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

ENGL 4783 Nineteenth Century American Literature

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

Prerequisite: ENGL 2113 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

Prerequisite or corequisite: RHET 3203 Textual Research Methods

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A reading intensive and focused study of the literature and print culture of nineteenth-century American literature.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Analyze major works, genres, and literary movements from 1800 to 1900 in America.
2. Review key writers, theorists, and scholars of nineteenth-century literature and culture.
3. Interpret literary features, structure, style, and key issues in analyzing the literature of the period.
4. Explore the basics of archival research, with a focus on current trends in research and criticism.
5. Develop a critical approach to nineteenth-century literature through class discussion, written assignments, and/or presentations. The critical approach should be drawn from nineteenth-century scholarship and cultural studies, such as Gender and Sexuality studies; Race studies; Class or Economic Studies; Periodical studies; and/or Colonial and Post-Colonial studies.
6. Create focused critical, scholarly arguments which explicate, analyze, and evaluate the works studied in innovative and scholarly ways.

B. University Learning Outcomes:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills:

Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Nineteenth-century American periodization, including Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Regionalism, Realism, Naturalism, and Popular Fiction
- B. Antebellum literature and the Civil War
- C. Race and American literature
- D. Genre and the Expansion of the American Novel
- E. Periodical literature