

- A. American Literature: Colonial through the Civil War provides students with the opportunity to study an important literary period. It is typically taught in college English departments and meets RVCC's general education goals as well as those of the English Department's Associate of Arts degree in English.
- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers to a four-year program as an elective, a general education elective, or a free elective, dependent on the transfer institution.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature.
- C. This course meets Category A elective requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Native American Literature
 - 1. Oral Traditions
 - 2. Poetry
 - 3. Essays
- B. European Views of America
 - 1. Explorers' Journals and Letters
 - 2. Defining "America"
- C. Puritans in America, Captivity Narratives, and Christian Conversion Narratives
- D. The Enlightenment
- E. The Revolutionary Period (1760-1790)
- F. Transcendentalism
 - 1. Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - 2. Henry David Thoreau
 - 3. Margaret Fuller
- G. Slavery, Enslaved People, Abolitionists, and/or Suffragettes
- H. American Literary Romanticism
- I. The Civil War

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims orally and in writing, using appropriate literary terminology (GE-1, 6, *)
2. Demonstrate comprehension of American literature in historical and social context. (GE-1, 6, 7, *)
3. Demonstrate how American writers' responses to historical events and social structures are influenced by their time, culture, and perspective (GE-7, *)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Assessment Instruments

1. exams
2. in-class formal and informal writing
3. demonstrations or presentations
4. essays
5. journals
6. research papers
7. group projects
8. class participation

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. exams
- B. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of style
- C. demonstrations or presentations
- D. projects
- E. class participation

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. simulation/role playing
- F. student collaboration
- G. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. textbooks

- B. primary sources
- C. student writing
- D. film and video
- E. audio sources
- F. web sources

Samples of specific texts:

- A. Native American oral narrative
- B. Narratives of the European exploration/colonization of the Western Hemisphere: e.g., Christopher Columbus, Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, Samuel de Champlain, John Smith, William Bradford
- C. Anthologies of pre-Civil War American Literature: e.g., Norton, Heath, Bedford
- D. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- E. *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly* by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- F. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*
- G. *Of Plymouth Plantation* by William Bradford
- H. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs
- I. *Hope Leslie* by Catharine Maria Sedgwick
- J. "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe
- K. "Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving
- L. *The Coquette* by Hannah W. Foster
- M. *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman
- N. *The First White Man of the West: Life and Exploits of Col. Daniel Boone, the First Settler of Kentucky* by Timothy Flint
- O. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. An American Slave. Written by Himself.*
- P. *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

CAT Classroom
DVDs

X. Check One: Honors Course Honors Options N/A