

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
B.A. DEGREE COURSE IN ENGLISH
SYLLABUS WITH EFFECT FROM 2020-2021

TITLE OF THE COURSE	Core Course BEN-DSC07: AMERICAN LITERATURE - PAPER I		
Category of the Course	Year & Semester Second Year & Fourth Semester	Credits 4	Subject Code
Hours:	75		
Objectives:	To introduce the students to the evolution of American literature through the study of pioneering texts		
Course Introduction (to be considered for internal assessment only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery of America. The Natives. Founding Nations • History of the United States of America • A study of the geographical map of USA • The Beginnings of American Literature 		
Course Components	<p>UNIT 1: Poetry</p> <p>1.1 “Prologue” Anne Bradstreet 1.2 “Brahma” R. W. Emerson 1.3 “The Broken Oar” Henry W Longfellow 1.4 “Because I could not stop for Death” Emily Dickinson 1.5 “Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night” Walt Whitman 1.6 “Sparrow” Paul Laurence Dunbar 1.7 “The Raggedy Man” James Whitcomb Riley 1.8 “The Anti-Suffragists” Charlotte Perkins Gilman</p> <p>UNIT 2: Prose</p> <p>2.1 “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For” H.D. Thoreau 2.2 “The Philosophy of Composition” Edgar Allan Poe 2.3 “The American Scholar” R. W. Emerson [Excerpt: Paragraph beginning ‘<i>In this view of him as Man Thinking...</i>’ upto the lines ending... ‘<i>popular judgments and mode of action.–Education of the American writer by nature, books and action</i>’] 2.4 “The Slaves' New Year's Day” Harriet Jacobs</p> <p>UNIT 3: Drama</p> <p>3.1 Trifles Susan Keating Glaspell</p> <p>UNIT 4: Short Story</p> <p>4.1 “The Murders at the Rue Morgue” Edgar Allen Poe 4.2 “Jim Baker’s Blue Jay’s Yarn” Mark Twain 4.3 “The Luck of Roaring Camp” Bret Harte 4.4 “Regret” Kate Chopin</p> <p>UNIT 5: Fiction</p> <p>5.1 Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain</p>		
Learning Outcomes:	By the end of the course, students will be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ trace the origin and history of American Literature ➤ understand and explain the cultural, political, and stylistic protocols that governed early American literature, the impact of Puritanism and significance of Transcendentalism using prescribed texts ➤ assess thematic aspects of literary texts as a part of cultural and historical movements in America 		

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Prescribed Text and Web Sources:

- i) The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. C, Baym, Nina et al. Fifth Avenue, USA, 2012
- ii) Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. D, Fifth Avenue, New York-17, U.S.A.
- iii) Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. E, Fifth Avenue, New York-17, U.S.A.
- iv) The Oxford Book of American Poetry edited by David Lehman, John Brehm. OUP
- v) A Pageant Of Poems By Sheppard, C. A. (ed.) Orient Longman Press. 1998
- vi) Short Story Masterpieces, Five American Masters, Jaico Pub. House, Mumbai- 23, 2003.
- vii) 1.5 <https://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poems/raggedy-man>
- viii) 1.8 <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/52090/the-anti-suffragists>
- ix) 2.3 <http://digitalemerson.wsulibs.wsu.edu/exhibits/show/text/the-american-scholar>
- x) 4.4 <https://americanliterature.com/author/kate-chopin/short-story/regret>
- xi) 5.1 <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/642/642-h/642-h.htm>

FURTHER READING (to be considered for internal assessment tasks only)

- “Song of Myself” & “I hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman
- “Of Deserts” by Herman Melville
- “Virtue” by Phillis Wheatley
- “On Women’s Right to Vote” by Susan B. Anthony
- “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” by Harriet Jacobs
- “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Edgar Allan Poe
- “Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- “Brown Wolf” by Jack London
- “Chikamauga” by Ambrose Bierce
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
- The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder

BOOKS & WEB SOURCES FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

- Larson, Kerry, The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Poetry, Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- The Cambridge History of American Literature Volumes 1-8
- The Literary History of the United States
- Barbour, James & Thomas Quirk; Romanticism: Critical Essays in American Literature, Routledge, 2016.
- American Poetry | Encyclopedia.com
- American literature - Poetry | Britannicawww.britannica.com ›
- American Poetry in the New Century by John Barr | Poetry www.poetryfoundation.org
- <https://www.history.co.uk/history-of-america>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iQeuzP2guk>
- Columbia Literary History of the United States
<https://www.bcucluj.ro/hu/cuprins/pdf/Ameri/cuprins000159530.pdf>
- <https://www.peng-uin.com/static/pdf/teachersguides/IncidentsSlaveGirlTG.pdf>
- The Beginnings of American Literature: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qibmsTdCTal>

RECOMMENDED MOOC

- NPTEL Video Course: Lecture 1-Introduction to the Course on American Literature and Culture

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<https://www.digimat.in/nptel/courses/video/109106099/L01.html>

https://nptelmooc2013.appspot.com/noc19_hs03/preview

- ePATHSALA:History of American Literature (1800-1900)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y7of6LiKFA>

- DOER: American Literature and Culture (NPTEL)

<http://doer.col.org/handle/123456789/6305>

TED-Ed TALKS

- American History <https://blog.ed.ted.com/2014/08/21/5-ted-ed-lessons-to-use-in-your-american-history-classroom/>

- Reimagining America's Cultural Narrative | TJ Martin | TEDxOrcasIsland

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_B9J5x4n4ZM