

English Literature III: American Literature (A001385)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Buelens, Gert LW07 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts **offering**

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

American literature, historical survey, highlights from the American literary canon

Position of the course

The aim of this course is to introduce students, via a historical survey, to some of the highlights from the literary history of the United States.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the third year of the bachelor programme in English, students are expected to further consolidate a C1 level of proficiency ("Expert"/"Effective operational" proficiency).

Exchange students can enrol for this course, provided they meet the requirements stipulated in this document. No knowledge of Dutch is required for this course.

Contents

General introductory lectures on the history of American literature alternate with more interactive sessions on specific literary texts dating from the periods under discussion. The analyses of these texts could focus, for example, on the literary and sociological characteristics that are typical of a certain historical period, or on those features that characterize certain ethnic forms of literature in the US, such as African-American or Jewish-American literature.

Initial competences

To have completed "English Literature I" and "English Literature II" or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

To master English at an initial C1 level (i.e. C1.1, First stage of "Expert"/"Effective operational" proficiency).

Final competences

- 1 Possess a literary-historical grasp of American literature that is in tune with literary-historical and cultural-historical components of the English program in particular, and the Ba-program, in general.
- 2 formulate critical insights about literary texts
- 3 have insight in the history and distinctive features of American literature
- 4 situate literary works in their historical and cultural context
- 5 provide in-depth analyses of literary works in grammatically correct and stylistically appropriate English
- 6 grasp the formal and generic conventions of poetry, drama and prose fiction

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture course with critical discussions
- Lecture recordings are made available to students upon motivated request

Study material

None

References

The exact reading list will be announced via Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

To complement the frontal teaching outlined above, students will be able to benefit from the Ufora learning environment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods*Assessment form*

A written exam, designed to test the students' knowledge of the history of American literature and of the texts that have been covered in class. The exam consists of open questions.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance is not required
- 2 If the scheduled examination time poses an insurmountable obstacle, an alternative time in the same session may be possible. Preference will be given to another scheduled examination time for part of the group.
- 3 Feedback can be given by videochat, email or during an appointment during or after office hours

Extra information:

Please contact gert.buelens@ugent.be to discuss your time constraints and other restrictions that will affect your attendance, so we can find a way to make the course work for you.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy