

## English Literature: American Literature (A005760)

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

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 1)      English      Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Schniedermaann, Wibke      LW07      lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A

**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.

### 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 programme in particular, and the bachelor programme in general
- 2 Formulate critical insights about literary texts, possibly with the support of Gen AI
- 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

Group work, Lecture

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture course with critical discussions

Lecture recordings are made available to students upon motivated request

### Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: A Short Literary History of the United States

Indicative price: € 27

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Mario Klarer

ISBN : 978-0-41574-217-7

Number of Pages : 196

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable

Type: Handbook

Name: Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter Tenth Edition

Indicative price: € 60

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Robert S Levine et al

ISBN : 0-393-89227-1

Number of Pages : 2600

Alternative : older edition, supplemented by F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby and a few short texts

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoints

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No

### **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**

continuous assessment

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

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

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

One written essay plus short in-class presentation during the term on a text from the course syllabus. One written research paper to be submitted after the final class.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

### **Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance is required for at least 65% of the weekly sessions. If you cannot come to class, please contact [wibke.schniedermann@ugent.be](mailto:wibke.schniedermann@ugent.be) in advance.
- 2 For in-person feedback, please make an appointment.

Extra information:

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