Common Course Outline
ENGL 203
American Literature I
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

ENGL 203 –3 credits – American Literature I examines American Literature from its beginnings to the Civil War; highlights the cultural, geographic, historical, and literary influences on each work.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a "C" or better.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. analyze works of early American literature, including both canonical and non-canonical texts and texts representative of the wide diversity of racial and ethnic cultures that comprise the American literary tradition or traditions;
2. identify different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally defined, and discuss ways in which these definitions have been challenged;
3. define stylistic characteristics, and analyze recurring themes reflected in literary works of each period;
4. engage in critical discussion about questions and problems related to the texts;
5. identify the different ways in which the concept of an American literary tradition has been defined, and analyze the ways in which this concept has reflected and supported aesthetic and ethical values associated with American culture;
6. examine changing societal values and mores of the literary era as they relate to the moral and ethical decisions of individuals;
7. assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;
8. analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature;
9. write a well-informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;
10. navigate scholarly databases, evaluate the available sources, and identify appropriate material;

11. incorporate appropriate academic sources into essays by summarizing, quoting, and paraphrasing ethically and correctly; and cite sources according to the assigned formatting and style guide;
12. utilize learning management systems (e.g. Blackboard) as appropriate to the academic environment; and
13. utilize appropriate technology to convey stylistically correct presentations.

Major Topics

I.   Native American Oral Literatures
II. The Colonial Period
III. The Revolutionary Period
IV. Romanticism
V.   The Literature of Slavery and Abolition
VI. Sentimentalism and the Domestic Novel
VII. Cultural contexts—issues of race, class and gender in individual texts and larger issues of literary production and canon formation.

Course Requirements

Grading procedures, exams, and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor. However, all students will:
1. Participate in class discussions and/or online exchanges through established chat rooms, discussion boards, list serves, or other instructor-determined platform.
2. Write at least two literary analysis essays with appropriate academic sources, for a total of not less than 2500 words, and take at least one exam with an essay component.
3. Collaborate with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.
4. Multiple assignments must infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives, and at least one assignment worth a minimum 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate *at least* 5 of the following General Education Program outcomes: Written Communication; Critical Analysis and Reasoning; Technological Competence; Information Literacy; Scientific and Quantitative or Logical Reasoning; Local and Global Diversity; and Personal and Professional Ethics.

Other Course Information
Students will utilize learning management systems and other technology as appropriate to the academic environment.

This course is an approved General Education course in the Arts and Humanities category. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

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