

ENGL 203
American Literature I
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

ENGL 203 - American Literature I: is a course in which students examine American Literature from its beginnings to the Civil War, highlighting the cultural, geographic, historical, and literary influences on each work covered.

Pre-requisites: 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. discuss different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally defined, and ways in which these definitions have been challenged;
3. analyze stylistic characteristics and recurring themes reflected in literary works of each period;
4. engage in critical discussion about questions and problems related to the texts;
5. analyze the different ways in which the concept of an American literary tradition has been defined, and 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 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, logical literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;
10. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic sources into essays according to the assigned formatting and style guide;
11. utilize digital resources for exploring humanities as appropriate to the academic environment; and
12. compose stylistically correct assignments using appropriate technology.

Major Topics

- I. Native American Oral Literatures
- II. The Colonial Period
- III. The Revolutionary Period

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- IV. Romanticism
- V. The Literature of Slavery and Abolition
- VI. Sentimentalism and the Domestic Novel
- VII. Cultural contexts
 - a. Race, class, and gender in individual texts
 - b. Literary production and canon formation.
- VIII. Inter- and intra-textual connections
- IX. Literary analysis

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- participation in weekly discussions in-class and/or online
- literary analysis essay(s) with appropriate academic sources, of at least 2500 words, one of which assesses 5 of the 7 General Education Outcomes and accounts for 10% of the overall course grade
- one exam with an essay component
- collaboration with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Arts and Humanities. One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes.

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