

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities
Course Number: ENG 405
Course Title: Themes and Topics in American Literature
Number of Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Any 200-level literature course

A. Catalog Description of Course:

A consideration of selected themes or topics from American literature. A student may take this course more than once for credit under different themes/topics.

B. Goals:

1. To enhance students' consciousness, understanding, and appreciation of important authors and ideas from American literature.
2. To help students make connections between literature and their own lives.

C. Objectives:

Students will be able to

1. recognize major literary expressions of the topic(s) offered
2. read carefully and respond orally and in writing to literary texts

D. Outline of Course Content:

The course includes important historical, philosophical, and social forces in American literature which are of particular value to the theme or topic chosen. Readings will be chosen to reflect the development of an idea throughout several literary periods or in

depth with respect to one writer or a small group of writers.

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E. Suggested Texts:

The Norton Anthology, The American Tradition in Literature, latest edition.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

Lecture/recitation, discussion, questions/answers, research
Library resources, video tapes

G. Instructor References:

Blair, Walter et. al., eds. American Literature; a Brief History. 1964.

Blankenship, Russell. American Literature as an Expression of the National Mind. Holt, 1958.

Cowie, Alexander. The Rise of the American Novel. New York: American Book Company, 1948.

Fiedler, Leslie. Love and Death in the American Novel. New York: Stein & Day, 1966.

Foerster, Norman. American Criticism, a Study in Literary Theory From Poe to the Present. New York: Russell & Russell, 1962.

Kartiganer, Donald M. Theories of American Literature. New York: MacMillan, 1972.

Kelley, Mary. Private Woman, Public Stage: Literary Domesticity in Nineteenth Century America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Levin, Harry. The Power of Blackness; Hawthorne, Poe, Melville. New York: Vintage, 1960.

Nichol, John. American Literature; an Historical Sketch 1620-1880. Edinburgh, Adam and Charles Black, 1882.

Reed, Walter L. Meditations on the Hero; a Study of the Romantic Hero in Nineteenth Century Fiction. New Haven: Yale, 1974.

Smith, Henry Nash. Democracy and the Novel: Popular Resistance to Classic American Writers. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Solomon, Eric, ed. The Faded Banners; a Treasury of Nineteenth Century Civil War Fiction. New York: T. Yoseloff, 1960.

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Trend, W.P. Cambridge History of American Literature; 3 vol. New York: Macmillan, 1944.

Wilson, Edmund. The Shock of Recognition; the Development of Literature in the United States Recorded by the Men Who Made it. 2nd ed. New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1955.