

# Macao Polytechnic Institute

## School of Languages and Translation

### Bachelor of Arts in International Chinese Language Education

#### (Applicable to Native Speakers of Chinese)

#### Module Outline

<b>Learning Module</b>	Introduction to American Literature	<b>Class Code</b>	ENGL3118		
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	Nil				
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	English			<b>Credit</b>	2
<b>Lecture Hours</b>	25 hrs	<b>Lab/Practice Hours</b>	5 hrs	<b>Total Hours</b>	30 hrs

#### Description

Organized chronologically by time period, this learning module is an introduction to the most significant or canonical texts in the history of American literature. Each lesson covers dominant literary themes of a certain period through major writers and their representative works. Authorial information and the historical context which shaped the works we are reading will also be discussed. This learning module should also serve as a continuation of "Introduction to Literary Studies" and "Survey of British Literature" taught in the previous semesters in terms of reinforcing students' understanding of literary terms and literary criticism as well as their capacity of creative thinking and writing on literature.

#### Learning Outcomes

After completing the learning module, students will be able to:

1. know major periods and trends in American literature;
2. understand a variety of literary terms such as theme, motif, plot, characterization, point of view, metaphor, symbol, etc.;
3. write on literary texts critically and to write creatively on different genres.

## Content

Week One: Introduction & Early American Literature 1620-1820

**J. Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur** (1735-1813): *Letters from an American Farmer*,  
“Letters III, What Is an American?” (1782)

Week Two: Early American Literature Cont'd

**Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790): *The Autobiography* (1791): Part One  
(www.gutenberg.org)

Week Three: American Literature 1820-1865

**Frederick Douglass** (?-1895): "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July" (5 July 1852)  
(<https://www.thenation.com/article/what-slave-fourth-july-frederick-douglass>)

Week Four: American Literature 1820-1865

**Herman Melville** (1819-1891): “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (1853)

Week Five: American Literature 1865-1912

**Walt Whitman** (1819-1892): "I hear America Singing"

Week Six : American Literature 1865-1912

**Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)** (1835-1910): “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of  
Calaveras County” (1865)

Week Seven: **Mid-term**

Week Eight: Literature of Modernism 1912-1940/ Prose

**F. Scott Fitzgerald** (1896-1940): *The Great Gatsby*

Week Nine: Literature of Modernism 1912-1940/Poetry

**e. e. cummings** (1894-1962): "in Just-"

**Langston Hughes** (1902-1967): "I, Too" (1932)

Week Ten: Literature of Postwar America 1940-1975/ Drama

**Arthur Miller** (1915-2005): *Death of a Salesman* (1949)

Week Eleven: Literature of Postwar America 1940-1975/Prose

Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964): "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (1953)

Week Twelve: The Literature of Contemporary America

**Maxine Hong Kingston** (b. 1940) : *The Woman Warrior* (1975)

Week Thirteen: The Literature of Contemporary America

**Leslie Marmon Silko** (b. 1948): "Lullaby" (1981)

## Submission of Book Review

Week Fourteen: Final Exam

## Teaching Method

Lectures, videos, case studies, group discussion

## Attendance

Attendance requirements are governed by the “Academic Regulations Governing Bachelor’s Degree Programmes of Macao Polytechnic Institute”.

## Assessment

This learning module is graded on a 100 point scale, with 100 being the highest possible score and 50 being the passing score.

Your score will be rewarded through Participation (15%), Book Review (15%), Mid-term (30%), and Final Exam (40%).

Item	Description	Percentage
Participation	Students' in-class performance in readings and discussions	15%
Book Review	Each student is expected to write a book review on any of the reading materials selected for this semester. The book review should give a description of the key points in the material and provide a short appraisal from the student. Minimum 100 words.	15%
Mid-term	Please choose <b>one</b> essay topic and write a short essay in class.	30%
Final Exam	Open book examination. Reference materials are prohibited; students can bring text materials and book dictionaries to the examination venue. Students have to write on topics from essay questions on the final examination paper, each essay should not be less than 400 words.	40%

**Total Percentage:** 100%

**Cheating Warning:** Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It is using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. A zero mark will normally be given to that piece of work if a student copies someone else's work or lets someone copy his/her own work.

## Teaching Material(s)

### **Textbook(s)**

Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (seventh edition). New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007. (ISBN 0393929930)

### Reference(s)

#### **Reference book(s)**

- \* Bertens, Hans. *Literary Theory: The Basics*. New York: Routledge, 2004. (ISBN978-0415351126)
- \* Bressler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: an introduction to theory and practice* (third edition). New Jersey: Upper Saddle River, 2003. (ISBN 0-13-033397-2)
- \* Elliott, Emory, ed. *Columbia Literary History of the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. (ISBN 0231058128)
- \* Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (sixth edition). New York: The

Modern Language Association of America, 2003. (ISBN 0-87352-986-3)

\* Gray, Richard. *A History of American Literature*. Malden, MA.: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.  
(ISBN0631221352)

\* Klarer, Mario. *An Introduction to Literary Studies* (second edition). London and New York:  
Routledge, 2004.

**Website(s):**

[owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)

[www.cliffsnotes.com](http://www.cliffsnotes.com)

[www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com)

[www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

[www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)