

Institute of Humanities & Arts
ADP English

American Literature

Course Code: ENGL-3123

Credit hours: 3

Aims and Objectives:

American writers came to the spotlight in the twentieth century with their resonant pieces of literature. Hence, it is significant to impart their notions about the changing world to students.

- To acquaint the students with American history, culture and literature in general
- To impart a comprehensive knowledge of the themes and techniques employed in American Poetry
- To familiarize students with American Novel, its concerns and techniques

Course Outline

UNIT 1

- Emily Dickinson as a poetess (Any 3 poems)
- Obsession with death in Dickinson's poetry
- Transcendentalism
- Feminism

UNIT 2

- Detailed study with critical analysis of the following poems:
- *Success is Counted Sweetest*
- *A Light Exists in Spring*
- *Because I could not Stop for Death*
- *I Felt a Funeral in my Brain*
- *A Route of Evanescence*
- *A bird Came Down the Walk*

UNIT 3

- Robert Frost as a Modern American poet
- Illusive simplicity in Frost's poetry
- Concept of nature

UNIT 4

- Detailed study with critical analysis of any 3 of the following poems:
- *Birches*
- *The Road not Taken*
- *The Death of the Hired Man*
- *Home Burial*

- *Mending Wall*
- *An Old Man's Winter Night*

UNIT 5

- *Sylvia Plath*: Critical appreciation of any 3 of her poems

UNIT 6

- Ted Hughes: Critical appreciation of the following poems:
- *The Road Not Taken*
- *Crow*
- *Hawk Roosting*

UNIT 7

- Autobiographical elements in the play
- Characterization
- Pessimism

UNIT 8

- Earnest Hemingway as a novelist
- *Old Man and the Sea* :its detailed study with critical analysis

UNIT 9

- Theme of resilience and courage
- Symbolism
- Significance of dreams

UNIT 10

- Tennessee Williams: *The Glass Menagerie*

Recommended Reading

1. Swall, Richard B (ed). *Emily Dickenson: A Collection of Critical Essays*. (Twentieth Century Views). New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1963.
2. Ferlazzo, Paul J. *Emily Dickinson*. Boston: Tawny Publishers, 1976.
3. Nitch, G.W. *Human Values in the Poetry of Robert Frost*. New York: Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1969.
4. Lathem, E.C. *The Poetry of Robert Frost*. New York: Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1969.
5. Newman, Charles. *The Art of Sylvia Plath: A Symposium*. Indiana University Press, 1970.
6. Faas, Ekbert. *Ted Hughes: the unaccommodated universe: with selected critical writings by Ted Hughes & two interviews*. Black Sparrow Pr, 1980.
7. Roudane, Matthew C. *The Cambridge Companion to Tennessee Williams*. Cambridge University Press, 1997.

