

American Literature I

Enikő Bollobás

This is a lecture course surveying American literature from the colonial times to the late 19th century. The readings are arranged chronologically, beginning with Puritan texts and ending with turn-of-the-century women's writing. Our main concern throughout the course will be to explore diversity and multiplicity in American literature; so, in addition to canonical texts, we will discuss authors formerly marginalized for reasons related to gender, race, or class.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Except for the few longer novels, which can be checked out in separate volumes from the SEAS and other libraries in the city, the assigned texts can be found in the following anthologies (as well as on the internet):

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, fourth edition, vol. I

The Heath Anthology of American Literature, second edition, vol. I

The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women

2. Secondary readings: relevant chapters from Bollobás Enikő, *Az amerikai irodalom története* (Budapest: Osiris, 2005). (For the page numbers of relevant chapters, see below.)

Required Primary Readings and Relevant chapters from *Az amerikai irodalom története*

1. Puritanism, Bollobás 29-47

from *The Journal of John Winthrop* (Norton I, 181-188)

Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of ...* (Norton I, 244-275)

Anne Bradstreet, "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "A Letter to Her Husband Absent Upon Public Employment," "Here Follow Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House" (Norton I, 209-214, 219-220)

2. The American Enlightenment and the early 19th century, Bollobás 48-63, 70-75

Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (Norton I, 487-600)

Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle" (Norton I, 897-909)

3. Edgar Allan Poe, Bollobás 84-93

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Raven," "The Philosophy of Composition" (Norton I, 1463-1475, 1447-1450, 1534-1542)

4. The American Renaissance I, Bollobás 104-123, 171-173

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," "Self-Reliance" (Norton I, 993-1021, 1045-1062)

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (Norton I, 1719-1889)

5. The American Renaissance II, Bollobás 123-134, 135-147

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Birthmark" (internet)

Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (Norton I, 2293-2347)

6. The American Renaissance III, Bollobás 176-178, 180-189

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Frederick Douglass, *The Narrative of the Life of FD, an American Slave* (Norton I, 1932-1995)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Norton I, 1626-1645)

7. The American bard: Walt Whitman; The woman poet: Emily Dickinson, Bollobás 147-164, 204-220

Walt Whitman, Preface to *Leaves of Grass*, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (Norton I, 2033-2047, 2048-2090)

Emily Dickinson, poems #214, 280, 303, 341, 465, 624, 754, 861, 1072, 1129, 1418, 1719, 1732, 1677

8. Postbellum regionalism, naturalism, realism, Bollobás 274-275, 220-230, 257-261

Sarah Orne Jewett, "A White Heron" (Norton II, 459-465)

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Norton II, 29-214)

Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" (Norton Short Fiction, 81-89)

Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (separate vol.)

9. Psychological realism, Bollobás 236-252

Henry James, *Daisy Miller* (Norton II, 277-315), *The Turn of the Screw* (Norton II, 332-402)

10. Women writers, Bollobás 262-266, 270-274, 277-279, 490-491

Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour," *The Awakening* (Norton II, 493-583)

Susan Glaspell, *Trifles* (Norton Women, 1388-1399)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (Norton II, 645-657)