

ENU11011 US American Identities

Course co-ordinator: Prof. Bernice M. Murphy (murphb12@tcd.ie)

Lecturers: *Prof. Bernice M. Murphy; Prof. Philip Coleman, Dr Mary Grace Albanese; Dr Kevin Power; Dr Dara Downey; Dr Janice Deitner.*

ECTS: 10

Format: 22 hours of lectures (x2 per week) plus 8 x 1-hour tutorials.

Assessment: One mid-term 1,000-word essay assignment (40%) and one end-of-term in-person examination (60%).

Texts discussed in some lectures will be made available on Blackboard.

[on BB] means that the reading for that lecture will be provided on Blackboard.

[TBD] – Material to be specified before the start of the teaching term.

Part 1 – American Literature Pre-1900.

Week 1: Lectures Start Week 2.

Week 2: Puritans and Their Afterlives

- Lecture 1: Mary Rowlandson, 'The Sovereignty and Goodness of God...' (1682) (BM) [on BB]
- Lecture 2: William Apess, 'Eulogy on King Philip' (1836) (MGA) [on BB]

Week 3: Literature of the Early Modern Period/The American Renaissance

- Lecture 1: Selected stories from Washington Irving and Poe (PC)
Irving, 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'; Poe, 'The Tell-Tale Heart,' 'The Fall of the House of Usher,' 'The Masque of the Red Death,' 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue,' 'The Raven,' 'The Philosophy of Composition,' Review of Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Twice-Told Tales* (1842). ***All texts by Irving and Poe are widely available in print and online.**
- Lecture 2: Selections from Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman (PC)
Emerson, 'The American Scholar' and 'The Poet'
Whitman, 'Preface' to *Leaves of Grass* (1855), 'Song of Myself,' and 'Starting from Paumanok' ***All texts by Emerson and Whitman are widely available in print and online.**

Week 4: Early American Feminism and its Limitations

- Lecture 1: Excerpts from *Woman in the Nineteenth-Century* (1834) by Margaret Fuller (MGA) [on BB]

- Lecture 2: *Little Women* (1868) (Volume 1) by Louisa May Alcott. (BM)

Week 5: American Gothics

- Lecture 1: 'Roger Malvin's Burial' (1832), 'Young Goodman Brown' (1835) and 'The May-Pole of Merrymount' (1836) by Nathaniel Hawthorne (BM)
- Lecture 1: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs (1861) (MGA) [on BB]

Week 6: Variations on an International Theme

- Lecture 1: W.E.B. Du Bois, 'The Comet' (1920) (MGA)
- Lecture 2: Henry James, *Daisy Miller* (1878) (DD)

Part 2 – American Literature Post-1900.

Week 7: The pre-WWII American Novel

(Reading Week: Lectures to be pre-recorded and posted on Blackboard)

- Lecture 1: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937) (DD)
- Lecture 2: *The Day of the Locust* (1939) (BM)

Week 8: Essayistic Interventions

- Lecture 1: Selected James Baldwin/Ralph Ellison Essays (KP)
- Lecture 2: Joan Didion, 'Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream' (1966) (BM) [on BB]

Week 9: Puritan Legacies

- Lecture 1: Shirley Jackson, 'The Lottery' (1948) (BM) [on BB]
- Lecture 2: Arthur Miller, *The Crucible* (1953) (KP)

Week 10: Radical Poetry

- Lecture 1: Selected poetry by Allan Ginsberg (PC) [on BB]
'Howl,' 'Footnote to Howl,' 'A Supermarket in California,' 'Sunflower Sutra'.
- Lecture 2: Selected poetry by Adrienne Rich (PC) [on BB]
Texts: 'Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law,' 'I Am in Danger--Sir-', 'A Valediction Forbidding Mourning,' 'Diving into the Wreck,' 'Power'.

Week 11: Twentieth- Century Native American and African American Identities

- Lecture 1: Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977) (PC)
- Lecture 2: Octavia Butler, *Dawn* (1987) (JD)

Week 12: Asian American Voices

- Lecture 1 – Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Refugees* (2017) (PC)
- Lecture 2: Exam Queries Office Hour (BM)