

# BUTTE COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

#### ENGL 14 - U.S. Literature I

3 Unit(s)

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 118 or ENGL 119 or English Level IV

**Recommended Prep:** Reading Level IV

**Transfer Status:** CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is a study of influential works of U. S. Literature from the colonial beginnings through the second half of the nineteenth century. It will include the influence of European and other traditions and cultural backgrounds, as well as various political, social, economic, ecological, and geographical influences and implications that have sustained, shaped, and inspired Americans. Materials will come from a variety of genres. (C-ID ENGL 130). Graded only.

### II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze themes within the course texts and compare them to the ways these themes are treated in other course texts.
- B. Synthesize analyses of specific details in particular works of literature in support of a clear, overall point or thesis.
- C. Identify, employ and evaluate different frameworks for analyzing and interpreting literature. These frameworks may include political, socioeconomic, geographical, ethnic, cultural, ecological, psychoanalytical, historical, gender, sexuality, and genre development.
- D. Demonstrate familiarity with important authors, works, genres, and themes of the period.
- E. Analyze and interpret themes found in the literature and intellectual movements of the period.
- F. Demonstrate understanding of appropriate academic discourse and the conventions of critical literary analysis.
- G. Relate the literary works to their historical, philosophical, social, political, regional, and/or aesthetic contexts.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

#### A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction to Course and Literary Study	3.00
Literary terms	
Themes and context	
Chronological and thematic development of literature	
2. Settlement and colonization	12.00
Major literary themes:	
Geography and the New World	
Interactions with Native Americans	
The questions of religion	
Experiments in political freedom	

3. The Enlightenment in America	12.00
Major literary themes:	
The impact of science and reason	
The revolutionary spirit	
The new political reality	
The new social spirit	
4. The American Renaissance	12.00
Major literary themes:	
The questions of American identity	
American Romanticism	
Westward expansion and manifest destiny	
Social boundaries: culture, ethnicity, and gender	
5. The Civil War and abolition	12.00
Major literary themes:	
Geographic and social divisions	
The "peculiar institution": slavery	
The Civil War	
Post-war realities: realism, naturalism, and social tension	
Total Hours	51.00

#### IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Collaborative Group Work
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Discussion
- E. Multimedia Presentations
- F. Students are expected to write a minimum of 4000 words for this course.

#### V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Research Projects
- C. Oral Presentation
- D. Homework
- E. Journal
- F. Class participation
- G. Essays and research papers

#### VI. **EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Reading Assignments

1. Read Frederick Douglas and prepare two to three questions for small group discussion.
2. Analyze a poem by Emily Dickinson for evidence of a theme that has been previously discussed. Bring your notes to class.

B. Writing Assignments

1. In a two-page response paper, compare how two texts examine the construction of racial identity.
2. Write a three-page dialogue for characters from disparate texts about one of the course's major themes.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Attend a local reading or presentation of a literary work related to the course and write a short critique.
2. Research an important historical event that influenced one or more course texts and present that information in a blog entry on the course's online site.

**VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Lauter, Paul (ed). The Heath Anthology of American Literature Vol. A. 7th Edition. Houghton Mifflin, 2013.
- B. Baym, Nina (ed). The Norton Anthology of American Literature Vols. A and B. 8th Edition. W.W. Norton, 2012.
- C. Lauter, Paul (ed). The Heath Anthology of American Literature Vol. B. 7th Edition. Houghton Mifflin, 2013.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Literary works as assigned by instructor.
- B. Films

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