

American Literature 1820-1945, LIVR63, HT12

Reading List

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, ed. Nina Baym. Shorter seventh edition.

Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*

Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*

William Faulkner, *Light in August*

Course Description

This course provides a chronological study of significant American authors and their works 1820-1945. Subjects we will consider in connection to the literary texts can be divided into two main areas. First, we will explore general aesthetic and philosophical issues pertaining to Romanticism and Modernism. Secondly, we will address questions particularly related to the American context, which involve both classic American themes such as individualism vs community, progress vs nostalgia, nature vs culture, as well as the interrelationship between the literary text and its specific socio-historical background. In addition, critical articles representing different perspectives, currents, and periods within modern criticism will offer an analytical framework through which to gain a deeper understanding of the literary texts.

Aims

Students will be able to identify and characterize the major authors and periods in American literature 1820-1945.

Students will be able to analyze the literary works both with regard to their aesthetic qualities and their socio-historical context.

Students will have acquired basic abilities to read and assess critical essays on the literary texts under discussion.