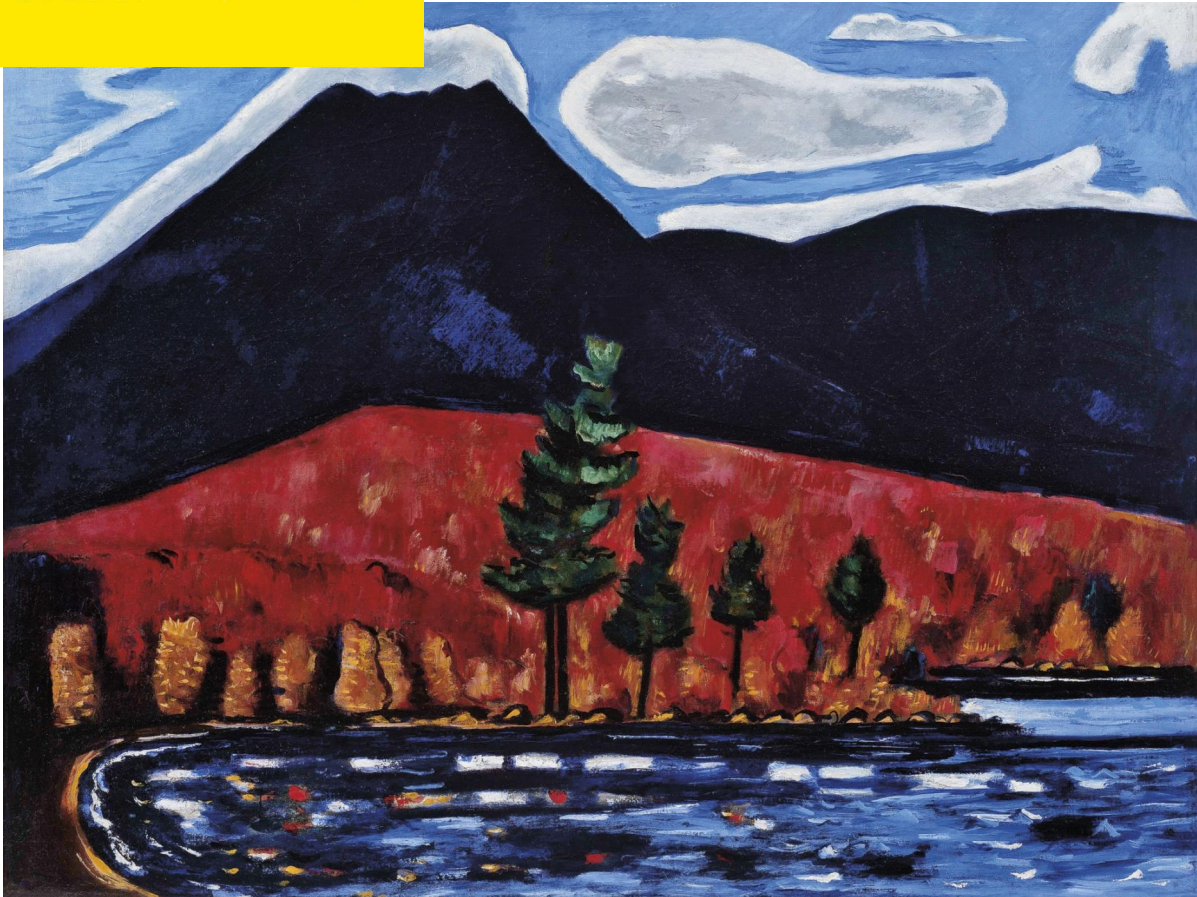




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ARTS2035

American Literature: Past and Present

Semester Two // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information, see <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *English*

This course provides a rich survey of the major movements and dynamics of American literature, situating some of the most significant works of American prose and poetry within historical and social frameworks.

The course is structured around coherent modules that juxtapose contemporary and historical texts, and argue for a distinctive national tradition. Themed modules such as 'Roads' and 'Outsiders' will blend primary with secondary reading materials and construct a compelling literary and critical portrait of the world's most powerful nation.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Identify, describe and critically evaluate major developments in American literature
2. Gain insight into the concept of 'America' in a variety of its applications
3. Develop an awareness of the relationship between American literature and other dynamics in 19th and 20th century American society, including racial, sexual and class inequality
4. Explain key themes in American literary studies
5. Write and speak about American literature in a way that is appropriate to the academic discipline of English

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

This course introduces students to some of the major works of the American canon - as well as some less respectable and more challenging texts - from the period of early European exploration to the later half of the 20th century. We have chosen texts that seem exemplarily to promote an understanding of key social and political trends in American cultural life. The course uses the theme of a road-trip as an organizing point to explore topics such as the Puritan experience, American exceptionalism, revolution and the Civil War, the philosophy and aesthetics of American transcendentalism, the Gilded Age, industrialism and the rise of consumerism, suburbia, multiculturalism and other issues. Particular attention will be paid to questions of race and gender as well as authorship and representation. The idea of the course is that by examining the literary record through the lens of American '??place'?? in different historical periods, we can note the persistence, mutation and transformation of genres, styles and forms.

Teaching Strategies:

The teaching methods used and the assessment components you are required to complete have been developed to reflect a philosophy of learning and teaching which

- fosters an engaging and inclusive learning experience
- promotes dialogical teaching through tutorial discussions
- seeks to give every student a stake in, and an opportunity to contribute to, the course as a forum

for learning.

Lectures, tutorials and assessment in this course should give you the skills necessary to perform intelligent, independent readings of American literary texts and to communicate those readings in cogent speech and prose

Assessment

We favour the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition, for all style and referencing matters.

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

We also like to see a strong independent voice in all written tasks. Find confidence in your own views and judgements, while testing them against the ideas of other critics and thinkers.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Minor Writing Assignment	15%	17/08/2018 10:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Research Essay	45%	05/10/2018 10:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5
Exam	40%	02/11/2018 11:00 AM	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Minor Writing Assignment

Start date:

Details: 1000 words. Brief written comments and marksheet grid with criteria provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Research Essay

Start date:

Details: 2500 words. Written comments and marksheet grid with criteria provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Exam

Start date:

Details: Take-home examination set in the formal examination period. The exam will consist of two equal parts over the equivalent of two hours. This is the final assessment task. Brief written comments and marksheet grid with criteria provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

Late Assessment Penalties

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending on the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a 'day' is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

Task with a non-percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore $17 - [25 (0.05 \times 3)] = 13.25$

Task with a percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore $68 - 15 = 53$

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in an essential component of the course.

This information is also available at:

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- * Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- * Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- * Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,
- * Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

(<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>)

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 23 July - 29 July	Lecture	Introduction and Walt Whitman
Week 2: 30 July - 5 August	Lecture	Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> (1845)
	Tutorial	Walt Whitman, 'Song of Myself' in <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (1855)
Week 3: 6 August - 12 August	Lecture	Emily Dickinson, selected poems
	Tutorial	Frederick Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> (1845)
Week 4: 13 August - 19 August	Lecture	Herman Melville, 'Billy Budd', 'Benito Cereno', and 'Bartleby the Scrivener'
	Tutorial	Emily Dickinson, selected poems
Week 5: 20 August - 26 August	Lecture	William Faulkner, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (1929)
	Tutorial	Herman Melville, 'Billy Budd', 'Benito Cereno', and 'Bartleby the Scrivener'
Week 6: 27 August - 2 September	Lecture	Elizabeth Bishop, selected poems
	Tutorial	William Faulkner, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (1929)
Week 7: 3 September - 9 September	Lecture	Allen Ginsberg, <i>Howl</i> (1955/6)
	Tutorial	Elizabeth Bishop, selected poems
Week 8: 10 September - 16 September	Lecture	Thomas Pynchon, <i>The Crying of Lot 49</i> (1966)
	Tutorial	Allen Ginsberg, <i>Howl</i> (1955/6)
Week 9: 17 September - 23 September	Lecture	Marilynne Robinson, <i>Housekeeping</i> (1980)
	Tutorial	Thomas Pynchon, <i>The Crying of Lot 49</i> (1966)
Week 11: 8 October - 14 October	Lecture	Rachel Kushner, <i>The Flamethrowers</i> (2013)
	Tutorial	Marilynne Robinson, <i>Housekeeping</i> (1980)
Week 12: 15 October - 21 October	Lecture	Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen</i> (2014)
	Tutorial	Rachel Kushner, <i>The Flamethrowers</i> (2013)
Week 13: 22 October - 28 October	Lecture	Paul Beatty, <i>The Sellout</i> (2015)
	Tutorial	Claudia Rankine, <i>Citizen</i> (2014)

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Some of these will be found on the course Moodle site. The rest are available through the bookstore.

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (1855) [Moodle]

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1945) [Moodle]

Emily Dickinson, selected poems [Moodle]

Herman Melville, *Bartleby the Scrivener*, *Benito Cereno*, *Billy Budd, Sailor*

William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)

Elizabeth Bishop, *Collected Poems*

Allen Ginsberg, *Howl!* (1955/6) [Moodle]

Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1966)

Marilynne Robinson, *Housekeeping* (1980)

Rachel Kushner, *The Flamethrowers* (2013)

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen* (2014)

Paul Beatty, *The Sellout* (2015)

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

We regularly revise and update this course, partly in response to student feedback and contributions. Please feel free to advise the course authority or any teacher on the course as to how it might be improved.

Image Credit

<http://picturingtheamericas.org/painting/mount-katahdin-autumn-no-1/>

Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, UNL – Anna R. and Frank M. Hall Charitable Trust

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