

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 246 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: American Literature

Course Description:

Examines American literary traditions and texts from diverse time periods, genres, and authors. Analyzes literary works within their historical, cultural, social, and/or literary contexts. Emphasizes skills of close reading. Develops critical thinking and interpretive skills through discussion, interpretation, and analysis of these texts. This is a UCGS transfer course. Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113 or departmental approval. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits.

General Course Purpose:

ENG 246 introduces students to texts and traditions within American literature. This course requires close reading, interpretation, and analysis.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites:

ENG 112, ENG 113, or departmental approval.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Critical Thinking

Evaluate and interpret information, ideas and arguments from a variety of perspectives (including the written arguments of others) to analyze complex issues related to literature
Interpret and combine information to reach and/or evaluate well-reasoned conclusions about literature

Communication

Explain the complex ideas of others, as they relate to literature and its traditions
Develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing that focuses on literary analysis
Develop writing that is appropriate to a given context and for a specific audience

Cultural and Civic Engagement

Assess the impact of culture across local, national, and global literary communities
Develop knowledge and civic values, within a humanities framework, that are necessary for contributing to civic life and the well-

Inquiry

Construct and explore meaningful questions about diverse human experiences through literary study

Historical and social contexts

Explain connections between literary texts and related historical, social, and literary contexts

Close Reading and Literary Analysis

Analyze literary texts using appropriate vocabulary and a variety of methodological approaches and perspectives, exploring the ways literary texts reflect and challenge cultural values and beliefs

Support interpretations of literary texts with valid textual evidence and use scholarly sources as appropriate to inform inquiry into literary texts

Writing

Compose literary analysis that is well-organized and features substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas with appropriate documentation

Major Topics to be Included:

- Literary Traditions
 - Inquiry
 - Historical and social contexts
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