

Academic Year/course: 2021/22

27834 - American Literature III

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2021/22

Subject: 27834 - American Literature III

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 3

Semester: Second semester

Subject Type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

2. Learning goals

3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

The methodology followed in this course is oriented towards achievement of the learning objectives. All class activities will be complemented by group or individual tutorials that form part of the face-to-face teaching and that can also be carried out by e-mail or via Moodle. The learning process is based on the student's active participation and encourages the accurate planning of their autonomous work, which includes the writing of an optional individual essay. The learning process fosters the development of the student's analytical skills and critical thinking, reasoning and argumentation, and involves the reading of the compulsory texts in the light of the recommended bibliography and the in-class teaching.

English will be the language used in all class activities, tutorials, essays, and exams, and the literary texts shall be read in their original version.

4.2. Learning tasks

This is a 6 ECTS course organized as follows:

- **Theory sessions** (1.2 ECTS: 30 hours). Theory sessions (which include, for each unit, the study of historical and cultural context, the main features of the period's literary production, the introduction to authors and texts, and the explanation of relevant critical and methodological approaches) consist of the presentation of such contents on the part of the teacher, and they will be based on PowerPoint presentations and other materials available in Moodle. Student participation will be encouraged in these sessions by means of relevant questioning and previous knowledge activating activities.
- **Practice sessions and group seminars** (1.2 ECTS: 30 hours). Practice sessions consist of the critical analysis of the compulsory literary texts. Previous reading on the part of students is essential for the development of these sessions, which will include guided commentary with the whole class, small group discussion, or the writing of brief individual or group analyses to be presented orally. Discussion, questions, brainstorming or role play for character analysis will also be used in order to activate theoretical and practical knowledge, reinforce basic concepts and develop synthesis, analysis, interpreting, relating, and expressing skills as well as attitudes such as cooperation and valuation of the work of others.

- Individual and group tutorials (0.1 ECTS: 2.5 hours). Tutorial attendance (alternatively, e-mail consultations or participation on the Moodle platform) is compulsory for the guided writing of essays, and optional for the rest of issues concerning the course.
- **Autonomous activities:**
 - a. Compulsory readings, use of secondary sources and Moodle-unizar materials (2.8 ECTS: 70 hours; or 3.4 ECTS: 85 hours for the students who do not write the optional essay). The students' independent activities include revising the concepts tackled in class, reading and analyzing the compulsory texts, reading secondary sources, and visiting the Moodle page.
 - b. Elaboration of the optional essay (0.6 ECTS: 15 hours), optional. By the 8th week of the semester, students will decide on a topic that will be agreed upon by the teacher. They will work on the development of a working hypothesis that will be presented to the teacher by the 13th week, together with the essay outline and the selected bibliography. The completed essay will be handed in by the day of the exam.
- **Assessment tasks** (0.1 ECTS: 2.5 hours). A global exam will take place on the day assigned by the Faculty. Students will have 2.5 hours at the most. The type of exam is described in the Assessment section of this Guide.

4.3. Syllabus

The course will address the following topics:

- Topic 1. The inheritance of the 19th century in US fiction. Realism: from classical to psychological, Henry James. The novel as "a direct impression of life." Naturalism and the excesses of capitalism, Stephen Crane.
- Topic 2. The Jazz Age and the American Dream: Scott Fitzgerald.
- Topic 3. The coming of Modernism. Poetry and the new aesthetics: Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, William, Carlos Williams. Self-reference, experimentation and the revival of myth: Ezra Pound, Hilda Doolittle, and T. S. Eliot. The epistemological quest and the poet as "savior of the race."
- Topic 4. New aesthetics and African roots: The Harlem Renaissance or the New Negro Movement in the works of Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston.
- Topic 5. Modernist fiction and Southern insight: literature, naturalism, and anthropology. William Faulkner's experimental world.

COMPULSORY READINGS AND FILMS

Longer texts (novels and novellas):

- Henry James, "Daisy Miller" (1878, 1909)
- Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
- William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)

Shorter texts (poems/fragments of longer texts/ essays):

- Stephen Crane, "Maggie: A Girl of the Streets" (1893). Chapters I and II.
- Robert Frost, "Mending Wall"
- Wallace Stevens, "The Emperor of Ice Cream"
- Williams Carlos Williams, "This is just to say"
- Ezra Pound, "A Pact", "In a Station of the Metro"
- Hilda Doolittle, "Oread"
- T.S. Eliot Part 1 of "The Waste Land"
- Langston Hughes, "The Weary Blues", "As I Grew Older", "I, Too"
- Zora Neale Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me"

Films (available at SEMETA / Biblioteca María Moliner):

- John Boorman, *Excalibur* (1981)
- Stanley Kubrick, *Paths of Glory* (1957)
- Robert Mulligan, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962)

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Theory and practice sessions (critical analysis of the compulsory literary texts) will take place in two weekly sessions, following the official schedule. Three to four weeks will be necessary for the presentation and discussion of each topic.

Group and individual tutorials will follow the schedule provided by the teacher, taking into account the students' class hours.

Students can write an optional individual essay guided by the teacher taking into account the following key dates:

- Deadline for notifying the choice of subject: week 8.
- Deadline for handling the detailed draft and the bibliography: week 13.
- Deadline for handling the essays: during the first final exam.

The first final global exam includes the handling of the optional essay and will take place in the official date assigned by the University.