

Curriculum Planner

DSC 10: American Literature

Sem 4, B.A. (Hons.) English

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To offer students a foundational understanding of the literature of the United States with specific reference to the way it chronicles patterns of oppression and freedom in the lives of its peoples.
- To open a range of possibilities in the way in which literature shapes and chronicles new frontiers and cultural groups.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- By studying this course, students will be able to trace the powerful role played by literature in shaping the emergent United States.
- Students will be enlightened how literature chronicles and shapes both different kinds of enslavement and possibilities of liberation.

Lesson Plan

- Introduction to the history of America as a nation, followed by the burgeoning of Pan-American literature composite of Native Americans, white settlers, and the Blacks.
(1 week)

Unit 1

- Toni Morrison: *Beloved*
 - Introduction to the author and times-reference to Harlem Renaissance
 - Discussion of the text outline
 - Textual reading and analysis of the text, with specific focus on the depiction of the characters
(2-5 weeks)

Unit 2

- Kate Chopin: *The Awakening*
 - Introduction to the milieu of the author and the text
 - Small group presentations on the text, class test
 - Critical discussion of the textual narrative pertaining to the condition of women and the existential stance-specific to the main character
- Herman Melville: 'Bartleby the Scrivener'

- Introduction to the American Renaissance, the author, and his works
- Critical discussion of the text and its genre

(6-10 weeks)

Unit 3

- Walt Whitman: “O Captain, My Captain” and “Passage to India”
 - Introduction of the writer and critical discussion and analysis of the poems, including some other writings by Whitman
 - Presentations and class test
- Alexie Sherman Alexie: “Crow Testament” and “Evolution”
 - Introduction of the writer and critical discussion and analysis of the poems, including some other writings by Sherman
 - Presentations and class test

(11-15 weeks)

All the above shall also include written assignments, class tests, and continuous evaluation in the form of note checking and presentations.