

Virginia Community College Course Content Summary

Course Title: ENG 246 - 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. 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-being of local, national, and global literary communities

Literary Traditions

- Describe salient features of writers, literary movements, genres and/or texts within the American literary tradition.

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

Close Reading and Literary Analysis

Writing