



BAKER COLLEGE
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

LIT3310 Survey of American Literature
3 Semester Hours

Student Learning Outcomes & Enabling Objectives

1. Evaluate the literary, cultural, historical, and philosophical forces that shaped literary works during the American literary movements and historical contexts from colonial times (1600) to 1945.
 - a. Recognize the cultural and historical characteristics of the era in which a text was written.
 - b. Describe the philosophical influences (i.e. Enlightenment, religious, Darwinism, pragmatism, etc.)
 - c. Identify literary works as expressions of individual or communal values of the era in which the literature was produced.
 - d. Analyze the ways in which literature influences the historical moment and the historical moment influences literature.
 - e. Compare and contrast the characteristics of literary movements (i.e. Puritanism, Colonialism, Rationalism, American Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Regionalism, Realism, Naturalism, Imagism, Modernism, Harlem Renaissance, Postmodernism, etc.)
2. Consider the transformation of characteristics and representations of American identity in American literature.
 - a. Identify the external forces that influence that definition during a particular era.
 - b. Identify common themes of the American experience (us vs. them, individuality, independence, conformity, etc.)
 - c. Recognize ideas in works of literature which contribute to the construction and definition of America(n)
 - d. Identify the characteristics of the American Dream in works of literature.
 - e. Analyze the ways in which literature affects the definition of American/American Dream.
 - f. Examine the ways in which the definition of the American Dream changes over time.
3. Analyze American literature through the lenses of critical theory.
 - a. Evaluate and choose an appropriate critical lens/lenses
 - b. Apply appropriate lens/lenses to the text.

- c. Compose original arguments, which integrate critical lens/lenses and scholarly resources
 4. Evaluate how literary elements in the genres of American literature affect and create meaning.
 - a. Define literary elements (i.e. theme, plot, setting, mood, tone, sound devices, allusions etc.)
 - b. Recognize the differing characteristics of genres (letters, essays, short story, narrative, poem, novel, etc.)
 - c. Analyze the ways in which uses of literary elements and genre create meaning in a work of literature.
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Big Ideas and Essential Questions

Big Ideas

- American Identity
- Literary device application
- Theme and Genre
- American literary movements
- Schools of criticism
- Seminal Authors and Texts

Essential Questions

1. What is an American and how has the definition evolved over time?
2. How has the concept of the American dream shaped our literature and culture and how has the American dream changed during the various literary periods?
3. How does the political, social, and cultural climate during a specific era shape the literature produced, and how does the literature produced during that era influence American culture?
4. How do authors use theme and genre to deal with social, cultural, and political issues?
5. How does the application of literary devices enhance meaning in American literature?
6. How can one apply the lenses of literary criticism to create an understanding of American literature?
7. How and why did the major movements in American literature of the period develop and what is the influence of classic literature?

These SLOs are not approved for experiential credit.

Effective: Fall 2017