

**Subject**

Intercultural Understanding Seminar-History of American Literature A [Spring]

**Subject numbering**

CULT2530

**Lecturer**

Sasaki Eitetsu

Laboratory: St. Andrew Hall 7F Room 712

Office hours: 12:35-13:15 on Thursdays

Email address:

**Number of credits**

2 credit(s)

**Tentative List of Topics to be Presented**

I will introduce various American writers, their works, and their themes while tracing socio-historical backgrounds and intellectual trends of American society. The lectures will be conducted in English. If necessary, I will have resort to Japanese to ensure that the students can easily grasp the contents and themes from the excerpts of the literary texts. We will cover literary works produced chronologically along the following timeline from colonialism to the Civil War. If you earned credits for the course, “American Culture: History of American Literature A (アメリカ文化研究-アメリカ文学史 A),” prior to the academic year 2023, you are not allowed to register for this course.

This seminar, an exposition of the socio-historical circumstances and Zeitgeist surrounding the lives and literary works of American writers, will present a chronological view of American literature. With the ultimate goal in mind of grasping the tip through American literature for tolerance, diversity, coexistence, and resilience, the seminar begins with preliminary questions, literary and/or historical, so that students may be prepared to accept unique American circumstances which are in some cases unfamiliar to them. Some of the students' submitted preparation assignments will be cited in class as a cue for discussion, which will enable them to realize the existence of perspectives, different from or even in stark opposition to their own.

Read the handout before and after the lecture.

1. Introduction
2. Jonathan Edwards and Benjamin Franklin: Cultural Icons and Architects of the American Mind
3. Susanna Rowson, Charlotte Temple; James Fenimore Cooper, The Pioneers
4. Edgar Allan Poe
5. Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance”
6. Henry David Thoreau, Civil Disobedience
7. Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
8. Herman Melville, Moby-Dick
9. Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass
10. American Renaissance and Romanticism
11. Emily Dickinson, Religious Poetry
12. Emily Dickinson, Love Poetry
13. Stephen Foster and Frederick Douglass
14. Harriett Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin
15. Review

**Evaluation**

Examination: %

Report: 25%

Others: 75%

Preparation/Review assignments are given.

**Textbooks & Suggested References**

[References]

The Columbia Literary History of the United States (Columbia UP).

Peter B. High, An Outline of American Literature (Longman Eicho-sha) Emory Elliott, ed.

**Keywords****Class Time**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> period