

Core Course IX – American Literature

The aim of this course is to instill in the student the variegated dimensions of sensibility and imagination of the American creative mind.

The objectives are :

1. To introduce the student to the diverse attitudinal and perceptive strands of American thought – its transcendentalism, romanticism, pragmatism and individualism of different shades.
2. To introduce the student to the diverse racio-cultural matrices of American literary imagination.
3. To facilitate the student appreciate the American Mind's grappling with existential and philosophical issues arising from both period – specific experiences and general / universal conditions of human existence
4. To make the student perceive the generic complexity and the experimental explorations of American literary works.
5. To make the student appreciate the linguistic distinctiveness of American English.

Unit I

Emerson : The American Scholar
Thoreau : Where I lived and what I lived for
Henry Adams : The Dynamo and the Virgin
(chapter XXV. The Education of Henry Adams)

Unit II

Edgar Allen Poe : The Raven
Walt Whitman : When lilacs last in the Dooryard Bloomid
Emily Dickinson : Because I Cannot stop for Death, I Taste a Liquor Never
Brew'd
Robert Frost : Mending Wall, Birches
Sylvia Plath : Daddy
Wallace Stevens : The Snowman

Unit III

Heming Way : For Whom the Bell Tolls
Toni Morrison : Songs of Solomon
Malamud : The Fixer

Unit IV

Engene O'Neill : The Hairy Ape
Arthur Miller : Death of a Salesman

Unit V

Tennessee Williams : The Glass Menagerie
Edward Albee : Who is Afraid of Virginia Woolf?