



**Rowan College**  
at  
**BURLINGTON COUNTY**

## LITERATURE

**CODE:** LIT 209

**TITLE:** American Literature I

**DIVISION:** Liberal Arts

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is a survey covering American literature from the Puritan period to the Civil War. It emphasizes major trends in literary development during that time span.

**PREREQUISITE:** ENG 102 or permission

**CREDITS:** 3 cr.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS (CHECK BOOKSTORE FOR LATEST EDITION):**

Click on the bookstore for the supplies which you are attending each class.

[Rcbc.edu/bookstore](http://Rcbc.edu/bookstore)

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the development of the American perspective through the content, style, and genres of American writings.
- Explain the major elements of Puritanism, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Unitarianism, and transcendentalism and differentiate how these philosophies affected early American literature.
- Analyze the social, political, and religious ideas influencing these writings.
- Interpret and explain the evolution of American literature as it is revealed from the various perspectives of major literary figures.
- Recognize and compare the major political, social, and religious concerns of Puritan America, Colonial America, and pre-Civil War America.
- Respond critically and personally to the topics found in early American literature, especially those concerning American identity, freedom, and voice.
- Competently compose analytical essays which evaluate and debate the literary trends of American literature, each of which will possess a clear thesis statement, a coherent pattern of supporting paragraphs, a concluding paragraph, adequate

support/examples from the text as well as academic sources. A minimum of errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage should appear in the essays.

**GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES IN THIS COURSE:**

<p>Written and Oral Communication: Communication</p>	<p>* Students will logically and persuasively support their points of view or findings.</p> <p>* Students will communicate meaningfully with a chosen audience while demonstrating critical thought.</p> <p>* Students will conduct investigative research which demonstrates academic integrity, originality, depth of thought, and mastery of an approved style of source documentation.</p>
<p>Society and Human Behavior: Social Science</p>	<p>* Students will demonstrate a general knowledge of political, social and economic concepts and systems and their effects on society.</p>
<p>Technological Competency or Information Literacy: Technology</p>	<p>* Students will use critical thinking skills for computer-based access, analysis, and presentation of information.</p> <p>* Students will exhibit competency in library online database tools appropriate to accessing information in reference publications, periodicals and bibliographies.</p> <p>* Students will demonstrate the skills required to find, evaluate, and apply information to solve a problem.</p>
<p>Humanistic Perspective: Humanities LITERATURE:</p>	<p>* Students will recognize and assess the contributions of people from various nations and/or cultures.</p> <p>* Students will analyze the changing significance of social constructions of religion, race, class, and/or gender in cultural artifacts (music, art, literature) throughout time.</p>
<p>Historical Perspective: History</p>	<p>* Students will demonstrate knowledge of the nature, origins, central events and significant institutions of major civilizations.</p>
<p>Global and Cultural Awareness: Diversity</p>	<p>* Students will be able to compare and contrast cultural norms from diverse populations.</p> <p>* Students will be able to examine how multicultural societies and peoples help engender a richer</p>

	understanding of diverse life experiences.
--	--

**CORE COURSE CONTENT:**

- New England/ Puritan writing
- The Enlightenment
- American Romanticism
- Transcendentalism
- The slave narrative

**COURSE ACTIVITIES:**

Course activities vary from course to course and instructor to instructor. Below is a listing of some of the activities students can anticipate in this course:

- ▶ Writing assignments: students will analyze current issues in the field using current articles from the popular press as well as library research including electronic resources databases.
- ▶ Speaking assignments: students will present research individually or in groups using current technology to support the presentation (e.g., PowerPoint presentation); students will participate in discussions and debates related to the topics in the lessons. Discussions may also focus on cross-cultural and legal-ethical dilemmas as they relate to the course content.
- ▶ Simulation activities: Trends and issues will analyzed for their ethical as well as social or legal significance. Students might role-play common situations for classmates to analyze. Current news articles may be used to generate discussion.
- ▶ Case Studies: Complex situations and scenarios will be analyzed in cooperative group settings or as homework assignments.
- ▶ Lectures: This format will include question and answer sessions to provide interactivity between students and instructor.
- ▶ Speakers: Representatives from various related fields may be invited to speak.
- ▶ Videos: Related topics will provide impetus for discussion.

**EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY:**

Rowan College at Burlington County advocates a technology enhanced teaching and learning environment. Advanced technological tools may be used in any course section

to facilitate instruction. Many of our sections are web-enhanced, which means that some of your work will be submitted or completed online. Web enhancements may include on-line materials, grade books, testing and quizzes and assignment submission. Many students enjoy the flexibility and convenience that these online enhancements have provided, however if you have concerns about the technology involved, please speak to your instructor immediately.

### **STUDENT EVALUATIONS:**

The student will be evaluated on the degree to which student learning outcomes are achieved. A variety of methods may be used such as tests, quizzes, class participation, projects, homework assignments, presentations, etc.

See individual instructor's course handouts for grading system and criteria (point value for each assessment component in course, e.g. tests, papers, presentations, attendance etc.), number of papers and examinations required in the course, and testing policy including make ups and/or retests.

### **GRADING STANDARD:**

- A Mastery of essential elements and related concepts, plus demonstrated excellence or originality.
- B+ Mastery of essential elements and related concepts, showing higher level understanding.
- B Mastery of essential elements and related concepts.
- C+ Above average knowledge of essential elements and related concepts.
- C Acceptable knowledge of essential elements and related concepts.
- D Minimal knowledge of related concepts.
- F Unsatisfactory progress. This grade may also be assigned in cases of academic misconduct, such as cheating or plagiarism, and/or excessive absences.

For other grades, see the current ROWAN COLLEGE AT BURLINGTON COUNTY catalog.

### **COLLEGE POLICIES:**

The current college catalog and student handbook are important documents for understanding your rights and responsibilities as a student in the RCBC classroom. Please read your catalog and handbook as they supplement this syllabus, particularly for information regarding:

- ▶ Academic Integrity Code
- ▶ Student Conduct Code
- ▶ Student Grade Appeal Process

**OFFICE OF STUDENT SUPPORT AND DISABILITIES SERVICES:**

RCBC welcomes students with disabilities into the college's educational programs. Access to accommodations and support services for students with learning and other disabilities is facilitated by staff in the Office of Student Support (OSS). In order to receive accommodations, a student must contact the OSS, self-identify as having a disability, provide appropriate documentation, and participate in an intake appointment. If the documentation supports the request for reasonable accommodations, the OSS will provide the student with an Accommodation Plan to give to instructors. Contact the Office of Student Support at 609-894-9311, ext. 1208 or visit the website at: [www.rcbc.edu/studentsupport](http://www.rcbc.edu/studentsupport)

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:**

RCBC provides academic advising, student support personal counseling, transfer advising, and special accommodations for individuals with disabilities free to all students through the Division of Student Services. For more information about any of these services, visit the Laurel Hall on the Mt. Laurel Campus, or call (609) 894-9311 or (856) 222-9311, then dial the desired extension:

- Ext. 1557 Academic Advisement and Counseling
- Ext. 1803 Special Populations
- Ext. 2737 Transfer Center

Or visit the following websites:

Academic Advising            [www.rcbc.edu/advising](http://www.rcbc.edu/advising)  
Student Support Counseling   [www.rcbc.edu/counseling](http://www.rcbc.edu/counseling)  
Transfer Center                [www.rcbc.edu/transfer](http://www.rcbc.edu/transfer)

RCBC offers a free tutoring for all currently enrolled students. For more information regarding The Tutoring Center call Extension 1495 at (609) 894-9311 or (856) 222-9311 or visit the Tutoring Center Website at [www.rcbc.edu/tutoring](http://www.rcbc.edu/tutoring)

Annual Review 2017  
DS