



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
M C M X X I I

TITLE OF THE COURSE:	Survey of American Literature from 1600 to 1900
Course code:	AKL3026
Course group:	C
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities
Study program:	English Philology
Level:	<i>Bachelor's</i>
Semester:	<i>Autumn</i>
ECTS credits:	5
Language of instruction	English
Course lecturer/s:	Prof. dr. Ingrida Žindžiuvienė, Assoc. prof. dr. Irena Ragaišienė
Short course description:	<p>The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the themes and characteristics of North American literature from its origins to the 1900s with specific focus on prose; to discuss the main trends and tendencies of American literature; to introduce literary works and themes of the most representative authors; and to discuss the socio-historical context that shaped the development of different literary trends. Critical reading of selected texts and writing on suggested literary topics constitute an integral part of this course.</p>
Course content:	<p>Developed during all the topics of the course. The origins of American literature. Colonial and Puritan culture and literature. The development of American Romanticism: Poe and Melville. Philosophical prose of the 19th century: Emerson, Thoreau and Dickinson's poetry. The origins of realism in American literature. Mark Twain's works. Women's movement in the 19th century and its representation in literature. Development of American regionalism. Kate Chopin's works. Naturalism in American literature: Stephen Crane's existential views. American Civil War and its representation in literature. The Civil War as a theme in Ambrose Bierce's texts. Relationship between Realism and naturalism in American literature. Development of philosophical realism and the origins of modernism in American literature.</p>



<p>Grading and evaluating student work in class and/or at the final exam:</p>	<p>Midterm exam: 30% of the final grade. Team work, essay, seminars and plot tests: 20% of the final grade. Final exam: 50% of the final grade.</p>
<p>Required reading and additional study material</p>	<p>Basic material:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. High, P. An Outline of American Literature. Longman, 2000.2. Ragaišienė, I., I. Žindžiuvienė. Modern North American Women Writers. VDU, 2005.3. Hart J. D. The Oxford Companion to American Literature. Oxford University Press, 1995.4. Baym N. et al.. The Norton Anthology of American literature. Vol. 1, 3rd ed. Norton, 1993.5. Baym N. et al. The Norton Anthology of American literature. Vol. 2, 4rd ed. Norton, 1993. <p>Supplementary material:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hartman S. V. Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-making in Nineteenth-Century America. Oxford University Press, 1997.2. Massa, A. and A. Stead, eds. Forked tongues? Comparing twentieth-century British and American literature. Longman, 1994.3. Ruland, R. And M. Bradbury. From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature. Viking, 2001.
<p>Additional information (if applicable)</p>	