



LIT25: English Literature and Composition

Basic Information

Instructor Name	Steen Sehnert
Home Institution	Columbia University

Course Hours

This course is composed of 20 sessions, and meets Monday through Friday for 2 hours per session.

Course Description

In this course students will read and discuss the lives and work of American writers of poetry, essay, novel, and short story. Upon finishing this course, students will understand the work of several major figures in the history of American Literature and they will possess the tools required for the careful and attentive reading of literature. Students will also enrich their reading of literature by creating their own original piece of writing, thereby putting themselves in the position of the writers whose work they are seeking to understand.

Assessment

Student participation is very important in this course. Students will spend the beginning of each course reflecting on the day's readings in a personal journal, and they are encouraged to respond verbally during each course. Students will write and submit 2 short essays each Friday about the writers covered during that week. Lastly, students will select a writer or literary work covered during the course and will select a topic to cover in depth about which they will lead a 10-minute discussion in front of the class.

Class participation: 20% 3 in-class essays: 60%

Student teaching project: 10% Final writing project: 10%



Course Outline

WEEKONE:

Emerson

Whitman

Thoreau

Dickinson

In-classwritingassignment#1(ungraded)

WEEKTWO:

Poe

Melville

Hemingway

Fitzgerald

In-classwritingassignment#2

WEEKTHREE:

Kerouac

Kesey

Carver

Harrison

In-classwritingassignment#3

WEEKFOUR:

Dillard

Toole

Wallace

Saunders

In-classwritingassignment#4