

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: American Classics
Status: Definitive
Code: **4101ENGL** (122054)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Colin Harrison	Y
Katie Taylor	

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 48
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 152

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Tutorial	2
Workshop	11

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Editor's introduction - 1500 words	40	
Exam	AS2	Exam - 2hour unseen	60	2

Aims

1. To introduce arriving first year students to a sample of American literature and key critical approaches that will be developed on the degree;
2. To problematise the idea of the 'classic' work of literature, and explore the status

of such books in American culture as a whole;
3. To give students practice in different modes of reading and critical analysis.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Articulate an independent response to given works of literature informed by a knowledge of historical contexts and critical perspectives.
- 2 Engage with debates about the role and status of reading in American culture
- 3 Demonstrate a range of basic skills specific to the reading of literary texts.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Editor's Intro 1500 words	1	2	3
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Exam - unseen	1		
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Outline Syllabus

The course begins with an introduction problematising the notion of the 'classic' literary work and exploring related issues to do with reading, literacy and canon formation. The following weeks are divided into 2-3 week segments for the extended study of selected texts, under the same basic structure:

a) text: language and stylistic qualities

b) context: exploration of historical context through selected documents

c) critical histories: investigation of the text's rereading at different historical moments, the establishing of a history of rereading, and permutations in popular culture (eg film adaptation)

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, workshops, individual feedback consultations; group work, private study, written work and Blackboard activity.

Notes

The module incorporates an additional weekly hour's workshop outside of the standard teaching block (i.e. on a different day), to be used for additional lectures, reading sessions and informal seminars.