

## Course Specification for American Novel and Drama

<b>College</b>	Zulfi College of Education		
<b>Department</b>	English Language Department		
<b>Course Name:</b>	<b>American Novel and Drama</b>	Course Code	ENGL 311
<b>Level</b>	6	Credit Hours	3hrs
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<p>Develop students' competence in critically reading literature, also their thinking, and analytical skills via reading and criticizing the assigned texts.</p> <p>2- Identifying the universal thematic value of the literary works studied and their relevance to the specific era of their production and to our own time.</p> <p>3- Enhance students' ability to understand and consequently produce well-structured literary analysis.</p>		
<b>Course Contents</b>	<p><u>The Novel during the Colonial &amp; Revolutionary periods (1700-1830s)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William Bradford: his autobiography <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> as a narrative about the settlement of the first puritans in the New World, the hardships they encountered and the help they received from Native Americans.</li> <li>• James Fennimore Cooper: <i>The Spy</i> (1821) a first novel set during the American Revolution, <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> depicting the decline and disappearance of Native Americans from the nation. The theme of the vanishing native American as a dominant feature of the American novel of the 1820s &amp; 1830s, then later in <i>Black Hawk</i> (1833).</li> <li>• The revolutionary thoughts in Nathaniel Hawthorne's Novel <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>, the theme of hypocrisy of the Puritan society.</li> </ul>		
	<p><u>The background of slavery and realism in the novel of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The background of slavery, westward expansion and the abolition movement leading to the Civil War: Mark Twain: <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>.</li> </ul>		
	<p><u>3 The Novel and drama in the Age of Modernism, the two World Wars and the Great Depression (1900-1945)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background: The scientific development, industrialization, the appearance of the working class, realism, and modernism.</li> <li>• The pioneering drama of Eugene O'Neill: <i>The Hairy Ape</i>, <i>Desire Under the Elms</i>, <i>A Long Day's Journey Into Night</i></li> <li>• Chief novelists the so-called 'lost generation' of the 1920s: F. Scott Fitzgerald: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> &amp; Ernest Hemingway <i>The Old man and the Sea</i>, <i>A Farewell to Arms</i></li> <li>• John Steinbeck: <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, <i>Of Mice and Men</i> (1937): extensive, detailed study of the novel (plot, setting, characterization, diction and imagery, themes)</li> </ul>		
	<p><u>Post-World War II Period:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The multiplicity of writing styles and schools and the tremendous popularity of drama after WWII</li> <li>• Two major post war playwrights: Arthur Miller <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (1949)</li> </ul>		

	<p>&amp; Tennessee William's <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (1951)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward Albee <i>The American Dream</i> , <i>The Sandbox</i> (1959), <i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i> (1966)</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Minority Novel and Drama</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The background of the struggle of blacks to gain their full rights. More general background of multi-ethnicity (the American melting pot).</li> <li>• Some of the greatest of American novels and plays produced by African American writers</li> <li>• Lorraine Hansberry <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> (1959). African American drama.</li> <li>• The novels of Toni Morrison: <i>The Bluest Eye</i> (1970), <i>Beloved</i> (1987), <i>Jazz</i> (1992)</li> </ul> <p>The Asian American novel, the Arab American novel.</p>
<b>Required Textbook</b>	<p>1. Gray, Richard. (2011). <i>A Brief History of American Literature</i>. UK: Willey-Blackwell.</p>

