

## Ambedkar University Delhi

### Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (August- December, 2017)

<b>School:</b>	Undergraduate Studies (This course will be offered at the Karampura Campus.)			
<b>Programme with title:</b>	BA (Honours)			
<b>Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V)</b>	III semester			
<b>Course Title:</b>	American Literature			
<b>Credits:</b>	4 Credits			
<b>Course Code (new):</b>	SUS1EN247			
<b>Course Code (old):</b>	EN08			
<b>Type of Course:</b>	Compulsory	No	Cohort	BA (H) English
	Elective	Yes	Cohort	BA (H) other than English

**For SUS only** (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective) X
5. Elective

**Course Coordinator and Team:** Dr. Bhoomika Meiling

**Email of course coordinator:** bhoomika@aud.ac.in

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Aim:** The course explores the foundations of an identity of American literature independent of its European predecessors. It also seeks to sensitize the students towards the meaning of democracy and how it has evolved, suffered setbacks and often even been questioned in the nineteenth century in United States of America. By reading some literature produces during the period of American Renaissance and some which came later, one seeks to understand the nature

of evolution of the American identity and its relationship with major political events like the Civil War.

**Brief description of modules/ Main modules:**

- I. The Rise of American Romanticism and Transcendentalism: An introduction to ‘American Renaissance’
- II. Reading Emerson and Poe: Discussions on the quest for an American literary idiom
- III. Reading short stories by Melville and Hawthorne as experiential guides to the American way of life
- IV. The Political in nineteenth century United States of America: Reading Thoreau, Douglass and Twain
- V. Individualism and Poetry: Reading Whitman and Dickinson

**Reading List:**

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “The American Scholar”  
Edgar Allen Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher”,  
Herman Melville: “Bartleby, the Scrivener”  
Nathaniel Hawthorne: Introduction to *The House of the Seven Gables*, “Rappaccini’s Daughter”, “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” and “Young Goodman Brown”  
Henry David Thoreau: “Civil Disobedience”, Excerpts from *Walden*  
Frederick Douglass: Chapters 1-4, *Narrative of The Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*  
Selections from Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*  
Selections from Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson  
Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Secondary Readings:**

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Divinity School Address”, “Self-Reliance”  
Harriet Jacob, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*  
Abraham Lincoln: “Gettysburg Speech”  
Selections from Margaret Fuller’s *Women in the Nineteenth Century*  
The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863  
Kate Chopin, “Desiree’s Baby”  
Journalistic pieces by Walt Whitman, Mark Twain and others

**Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:**

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Class test	End of August/Early September	10%
2	Mid Semester Exam	End of September	25%
3	Presentation	End of October	35%
4	End Semester Exam	As per AUD Academic Calendar	30%