

BBLAN09200 – Thematic approaches to American literary texts

Fall 2019

Instructor: Vera Benczik

Email: benczik.vera@btk.elte.hu

Course content: The course focusses on different genres, trends and movements in American literature, with the aim to help students immerse themselves in the topics covered by the American literature lecture. The class will meet on three occasions, each one revolving around one specific group of texts: on September 28 we will discuss samples from American poetry, the focus of November 23 will be the American Gothic, and the December 14 class will revolve around minority literatures.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

1. September 28, Saturday, 8:30-12:30 – American poetry (*no home reading required*)

TEXTS:

- Emily Dickinson selected poems
- T. S. Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
- Sylvia Plath “Lady Lazarus” and “Daddy”

2. November 23, Saturday, 8:30-12:30 – the Gothic in American literature

Required reading:

- Nathaniel Hawthorne “The Birthmark”
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper”
- William Faulkner “A Rose for Emily”

3. December 14, Saturday, 8:30-12:30 – Minority literatures

Required reading:

- Leslie Marmon Silko “Lullaby”
- Amy Tan “Rules of the Game” [excerpt from the novel *The Joy Luck Club*]
- Alice Walker “Everyday Use”

Requirements:

1. Come prepared to class: read the required readings, and bring the texts with you (any format, printed or digital, is fine).
2. Hand in a review essay (1000-1300 words) by December 1, 2019, via email.

Final grade: 50% attendance+in-class participation; 50% review essay.

Absence policy: you may miss one full occasion, or one third of the classes. Missing more than one full occasion, or 6+ classes will result in you failing the course. Please be punctual. Being late a few minutes will have no consequences, but after 30 minutes I will mark you absent for that class.