**BBLAN09400 – Generic Approaches to American Literary Texts**

Spring 2020

**Instructor**: Márta Pellérdi

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**Course description:** The course focuses on approaching masterpieces of American literature through different genres: poetry, short fiction and drama. During the term the class will have three occasions to discuss well-known literary works written in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. On March 21, we will begin with poetry, continue with short stories on April 4, and end the discussions with drama on May 9.

**1. March 21, Saturday, 13:15-17:15** – **American poetry**

E. A.Poe: “To Helen

H.D.: “To Helen”

Vachel Lindsay: “Kalamazoo”

Walt Whitman: “To a Locomotive in Winter”

Carl Sandburg: “Chicago”

Allen Ginsberg: “Supermarket in California”

**2. April 4, Saturday 13:15-17:15** — American Short Fiction

Nathaniel Hawthorne: “Rappaccini’s Daughter”

F. Scott Fitzgerald: “Babylon Revisited”

Raymond Carver: “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love”

Nathan Englander: “What We Talk About When We Talk About Anna Frank”

**3. May 9, Saturday, 13.15-17.15** – American Drama

Thornton Wilder: *Our Town*

Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman*

Tennessee Williams: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

**Requirements**:

1. You are required to attend classes: one absence is permitted.
2. You have to read the texts in advance and come to class fully prepared to discuss them.
3. One essay (1000-1300 words) with three academic secondary sources on any of the works discussed in class. Deadline: April 28. Submit the essay by email. Academic honesty is required.
4. Bring the texts with you (in any format).

**Final grade**: 50% attendance and in-class participation;

 50% essay.