

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College**  
**Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ENG 246    **Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** American Literature

**Course Description:**

Examines American literary traditions and texts from diverse time periods, genres, and authors. Analyzes literary works within their historical, cultural, social, and/or literary contexts. Emphasizes skills of close reading. Develops critical thinking and interpretive skills through discussion, interpretation, and analysis of these texts. This is a UCGS transfer course. Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113 or departmental approval. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits.

**General Course Purpose:**

ENG 246 introduces students to texts and traditions within American literature. This course requires close reading, interpretation, and analysis.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

ENG 112, ENG 113, or departmental approval.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

**Critical Thinking**

- Evaluate and interpret information, ideas and arguments from a variety of perspectives (including the written arguments of others) to analyze complex issues related to literature
- Interpret and combine information to reach and/or evaluate well-reasoned conclusions about literature

**Communication**

- Explain the complex ideas of others, as they relate to literature and its traditions
- Develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing that focuses on literary analysis
- Develop writing that is appropriate to a given context and for a specific audience

**Cultural and Civic Engagement**

- Assess the impact of culture across local, national, and global literary communities
- Develop knowledge and civic values, within a humanities framework, that are necessary for contributing to civic life and the well-being of local, national, and global literary communities

**Literary Traditions**

- Describe salient features of writers, literary movements, genres and/or texts within the American literary tradition.

**Inquiry**

- Construct and explore meaningful questions about diverse human experiences through literary study

**Historical and social contexts**

- Explain connections between literary texts and related historical, social, and literary contexts

**Close Reading and Literary Analysis**

- Analyze literary texts using appropriate vocabulary and a variety of methodological approaches and perspectives, exploring the ways literary texts reflect and challenge cultural values and beliefs
- Support interpretations of literary texts with valid textual evidence and use scholarly sources as appropriate to inform inquiry into literary texts

**Writing**

- Compose literary analysis that is well-organized and features substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas with appropriate documentation

**Major Topics to be Included:**

- Literary Traditions
- Inquiry
- Historical and social contexts
- Close Reading and Literary Analysis
- Writing

**Effective Date/Updated:** January 1, 2022