

UGBA Sem – 6
2022-23

English (Core) – 314 (EA)
Title: American Literature

314(EA) Title: American Literature-Ages, Characteristics, Authors, Works of American Literature

Age	Context	Authors
1. 1500s to 1620: Precolonial/ Native American Literature	Historical Context:	Thomas Hariot
	-Age of Exploration for European travelers	Captain John Smith
	-Biased view of the “New Land” and native People	
	Literary Context:	
	-‘Orature’ -Folklores & Songs by the Native Indians	
	-Myths and legends of wisdom, culture & rituals	
	-The Trickster Tales and Animal Stories ending with Moral lessons	
2. 1620-1720: The Puritan Age	Historical Context:	William Bradford
	-Arrival of European Settlers along with African slaves	Anne Bradstreet
	-Christened the land “New England”	Jonathan Edwards
	Literary Context:	Mary Rowlandson
	-Beginning of Colonial Literature	Phillis Wheatley
	-Religious Writings	Olaudah Equiano
	-Diaries, Sermons, Journals and Pamphlets	Edward Taylor
		John Winthrop
	Cotton Mather	
	Historical Context:	Benjamin Franklin

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3. 1720-1820 : The Age of Enlightenment	-Revolutionary war or the American War of Independence	Thomas Jefferson	
	-Emergence of the Nation as the United States of America	Thomas Paine	
	-Independence of US Colonies from the Great Britain on July 4, 1776	Alexander Hamilton	
	Literary Context:	John Woolman	
		Mrs. Sarah Morton	
	-Spirit of Nationalism prevailed	Charles Brockden Brown	
	-Age of Reason and Revolution	Timothy Dwight	
-Poetry as a weapon for the American Revolution	Philip Freneau		
4. 1820-1865 : The Romantic Age or The American Renaissance	Historical Context:	Washington Irving	<i>The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon</i>
	-Industrialization	Edgar Allen Poe	<i>The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket</i>
	-War of 1812	Margaret Fuller	
	Literary Context:	Ralph Waldo Emerson	<i>Society and Solitude</i>
		Henry David Thoreau	<i>Walden or Life in the Woods</i>
	-New England Brahmins and The Transcendentalists	Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
	-Reverence of Nature dominated poetry and prose		
-Rise of Gothic Literature			

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		Henry Wordsworth Longfellow	
		Herman Melville	<i>Moby-Dick or The Whale</i>
		Emily Dickinson	<i>Final Harvest</i>
		Walt Whitman	<i>Leaves of Grass</i>
		Harriet Beecher Stowe	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
5. 1865-1920: Age of Realism and Naturalism	Historical Context:	Stephen Crane	<i>Red Badge of Courage</i>
	-Civil War	Mark Twain	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Life on the Mississippi, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>
	-The Reconstruction Era	Ambrose Bierce	
	Literary Context:	Bret Harte	
	- Anti-Slavery Poems and Fiction	Henry James	<i>The Ambassadors</i>
	-Leaves of Grass as treatise on American Individualism	Jack London	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>
	- Influenced by new theories of Psychology	Theodore Dreiser	<i>Sister Carrie</i>
		Robert Frost	<i>New Hampshire</i>
		William Carlos Williams	
	Historical Context:	F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>

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6. 1920-1945: The Age of Modernism or the Age of Disillusionment	-America as the “melting pot”	Ernest Hemingway	<i>Farewell to Arms, The Old Man and the Sea, The Sun Also Rises</i>
	-World War-I & II	William Faulkner	<i>Absalom, Absalom!, The Sound and the Fury</i>
	-The Great Depression	J.D. Salinger	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>
	Literary Context:	W.H. Auden	
	-Loss of faith in the “American Dream”	Langston Hughes	
	-Emphasis on experimental style	W.E.B. DuBois	<i>Dusk of Dawn</i>
	-Harlem Renaissance Literature	John Steinbeck	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
		Eugene O'Neill	<i>Emperor Jones, Desire Under the Elms</i>
	Pearl S. Buck		
7. 1945 – 2000: Post Modernism or The Age of Anxiety	Historical Context:	John Updike	
	-Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars	Sylvia Plath	
	-Dominance of media and ICT	Arthur Miller	<i>All My Sons, Death of a Salesman</i>
	Literary Context:	Tennessee Williams	<i>A Street Car Named Desire, The Glass Menagerie</i>
	-Fusion writings – mix of fantasy with non-fiction	Ralph Ellison	<i>The Invisible Man</i>
	-Literature on ethnic, feminist and blue-collar issues	Zora Neal Hurston	
	-Golden Age of Broadway Theatre	Alice Walker	<i>The Color Purple</i>
		Toni Morrison	<i>Beloved, The Bluest Eye</i>
	Maya Angelou	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	
	Allen Ginsberg		

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		Saul Bellow	<i>Herzog</i>
		Isaac Bashevis Singer	
		Adrienne Rich	
8. 21 st Century (From 2000 onwards): Age of Globalization and Digitalization	Historical Context:	Bob Dylan	
	-Digitalization	Jhumpa Lahiri	
	-Flat world as a level playing field	Elmaz Abinader	
	Literary Context:	Meena Alexander	
	-“Global” voices and Multiethnic writings	Sherman Alexie	
	-Cyber Literature	Marilynne Robinson	
	-Rise of Graphic and Sci-Fi or SF novels	Ursula K Le guin	
		Aberjhani	
	Stephen King	<i>The Shining, Misery</i>	
	Junot Díaz		
		Edith Wharton	<i>The Age of Innocence</i>
		James Baldwin	<i>Go Tell it on the Mountain</i>
		Louisa May Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
	Authors not listed in the Ages above	Vladimir Nabokov	<i>Lolita</i>
		Willa Cather	<i>My Antonia</i>
		Harper Lee	<i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i>
		Sinclair Lewis	<i>Babbitt</i>
		Sherwood Anderson	<i>Winesburg Ohio</i>

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	Philip Roth	<i>Portnoy's Complaint</i>
	Margaret Mitchell	<i>Gone with the Wind</i>



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