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| **“DZEMAL BIJEDIC“ UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR** **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  **ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT** | | | | |
| **Course:** | **American Transcendentalism** | | **Course code: 0000** | |
| **Level:** | Undergraduate | |  | |
| **Professor:** | Selma Raljević PhD  Associate professor | | | |
| **Contact details:** | Consultations:  Address (office):  E-mail: selma.raljevic@unmo.ba | | | |
| **Total number of hours:** | Lectures per week: 2 | Practicals/tutorials per week: 2 | | Total number of hours: 4+seminars |
| **ECTS:** | 5 ECTS | | | |
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| **Course status:** | Core | | | |
| **Prerequisites:** | English Novel of the 18th and the 19th Centuries | | | |
| **Access limitations:** |  | | | |
| **Credits value:** | Credits value is defined by the number of hours and planned program. | | | |
| **Course aims:** | The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the most significant phenomena of American literature, both in literary  and cultural sense, in the period of the "American Renaissance.” The course will extensively cover the period of the 1830’s, 1840’s and 1850’s, when the first masterpieces of American literature were created. Through lectures, practicals, and seminars, the students will be offered an insight into the most influential prose and poetry works of the period, which will in turn result in understanding basic ideas and notions of the terms such as Puritanism, and Transcendentalism. It will also give an insight into such literary features as organic form, free verse, and show the difference between novel and romance as prose forms. Seminars and practical classes are organized so that they closely follow the themes of the lectures. | | | |
| **Course content:** | This course explores the literature of American Transcendentalism and its philosophical, theological, political, cultural, and social contexts and implications. | | | |
| **Outcomes:** | After passing the exam, students will:  • acquire knowledge of the most prominent works of American prose and poetry in the mid-nineteenth century, and understand its most basic features (e.g. free verse, organic form, romance)  • be able to critically evaluate and understand the themes found in American prose and poetry of the mid-nineteenth century;  • be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the specific and wider context of their field of study;  • develop the ability of written and oral communication in English;  • know how to interpret and critically assess American literature;  • develop sense of understanding of the literature of American Transcendentalism, which will enable them to further understand American literary Modernism as well as literature in general. | | | |
| **Syllabus content:** | 1. Historical background.  2. The beginning of the idea of ​​cultural independence from Europe. The roots of the North - South conflict. Civil war. The end of the conquest of the American West.  3. The first literary achievements of the United States.   The Idea of ​​Romanticism in American Literature. An American writer between European tradition and social engagement.  4. Transcendentalism.  5. Ralph Waldo Emerson as a thinker, and an essayist.  6. Emerson as a poet. Experiments in versification, departure from European tradition.  Transforming the Transcendentalist ideas into life. Criticism of the emerging American capitalism. Henry David Thoreau.  7. H. D. Thoreau. Utopia of an individual in *Walden*.  8. "Free verse", naturalism and optimism in the poetry of Walt Whitman.  9. Civil War as a motif in Whitman’s poetry.  10. Novel and narrative of the American Renaissance. Nathaniel Hawthorne.  11. Hawthorne's moral and storytelling.  12. Hermann Melville.  13. Structural and narrative problems of Melville's *Moby Dick*.  14. Emily Dickinson and her poetry.  15. Search for a new structure and ways of expressions in E. Dickinson's Poetry. | | | |
| **Teaching methods:** | Lectures, practicals, seminars | | | |
| **Students’ obligations:** | Students are required to read all texts covered by lectures and practicals. | | | |
| **Assessment:** | There is a written and oral exam at the end of the course, consisting of two questions related to the works, one from the prose/fiction and one from poetry. The final grade is determined on the basis of regular attendance and participation in the discussion in seminars and practicals (20%), written exam (40%), and oral exam (40%). | | | |
| **Bibliography:** | Required reading:     1. Fiction   R. W. Emerson, *Nature*, “The American Scholar.”  H. D. Thoreau, *Walden*.  N. Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, “Young Goodman Brown.”  Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*  B. Poetry  R. W. Emerson, “The Rhodora,” “Days,” “Brahma,” “Hamatreya.”W. Whitman, “Song of Myself,” “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd.”  E. Dickinson, Poems: 26, 49,214, 249, 288, 289, 585, 712, 1212, 1400.  Bibliography:  Ralph Waldo Emerson: *Nature,* (Chapter "Language"), "The American Scholar", Poetry ("The Rhodora", "Days", "Brahma", "Hamatreya"). F. O Matthiessen "A Few Herbs and Apples" in ed. Konwitz and Whicher: *Emerson*, pp. 100-107; Z. Radeljković: "Emerson Between Society and Solitude”, *American Topics,*  pp. 67-81.  2. Henry David Thoreau: *Walden* (chapters 1, 2 and 18); "Civil Disobedience". F. O Matthiessen: "What Music Shall We Have" in ed. Sherman Paul: *Thoreau*, pp. 53-62. Z. Radeljković: “Thoreau’s Definition of America”, *American Topics*, pp. 93-104.  3. Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*, ("Young Goodman Brown").  Q. D. Lewis: "Hawthorne as a Poet", in ed. Kaul: *Hawthorne*, pp. 25-63; Z. Radeljković: "Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Versions of Allegory”, *American Topics*, pp. 105-121.  4. Herman Melville, *Moby Dick or the White Whale*, "Bartleby the Scrivener". Richard Chase: "Melville and Moby Dick" in ed. Chase: *Melville*, 49-61; Z. Radeljković: "Forgotten and Revived Melville” *American Topics*, pp. 123-136.  5. Walt Whitman: "Song of Myself", "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd",. D. H. Lawrence, "Whitman", in ed. Pierce, *Whitman*, pp. 80-88; I. Andrić: "Volt Vitmen", *Eseji i kritike*, pp. 261-268; Z. Radeljković, "The Comprehensive Walt Whitman”, *American Topics*, pp. 137-155.  6. Emily Dickinson: (Poems: 26, 49, 214, 249, 288, 289, 585, 712, 1212, 1400). Yvor Winters: "Emily Dickinson and the Limits of Judgment" in ed. Sewall: *Emily Dickinson*, pp. 28-40; Z. Radeljković: The World According to Emily Dickinson”, *American Topics*, pp. 157-165.    - Zvonimir Radeljković, *American Topics*.  - Marcus Cunliffe, Chapter 3 "Independence - The First Fruits (Irving, Cooper, Poe)", Chapter 4 "New England's Day (Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne)", Chapter 5 "Melville and Whitman", 8 Chapter "Minor Key (Emily Dickinson and Others", *The Literature of the United States*, pp. 53-80, pp. 81- 112, pp. 113-136, pp. 179-194. | | | |