



On the breast of her gown, in fine red cloth, surrounded with an elaborate embroidery and fantastic flourishes of gold thread, appeared the letter A

**LETTERATURA ANGLOAMERICANA I (010LE)
ANGLO-AMERICAN LITERATURE I
2023-2024**

Instructor: Leonardo Buonomo
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The course will be held in English

Title of the course:

Discovering America: literature and culture in the New World

This course will trace the origins and development of American literature and culture from its beginnings to the mid-nineteenth century through a close reading of a number of texts ranging from transcriptions of oral sources to poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Special attention will be paid to the search for a distinctively American voice and for cultural independence from Europe. The reading list will include such authors as Mary Rowlandson, Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, and Herman Melville. Since this is a course that emphasizes close reading and discussion in class, students are advised to attend classes regularly and bring the texts with them.

Reading list (9 credits):

- A selection of Native American writings (Crow, Pawnee, Ojibwa, Navajo, Kiowa)
- A selection of Colonial American writings: J. Smith, W. Bradford, A. Bradstreet
- Mary Rowlandson, excerpts from *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*
- a selection of 18th-century writings: St. J. de Crèvecoeur, T. Jefferson, P. Wheatley, C. Brockden Brown
- Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle"
- Edgar Allan Poe, "The Masque of the Red Death"; "The Black Cat"; "The Tell-Tale Heart";
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineaux"; *The Scarlet Letter*
- *Frederick Douglass, A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave (Chapters 1-7)*
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, excerpts from *Nature*
- Henry David Thoreau, excerpts from *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*
- Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

Reading list (6 credits):

- A selection of Native American writings (Crow, Pawnee, Ojibwa, Navajo, Kiowa)
- A selection of Colonial American writings: J. Smith, W. Bradford, A. Bradstreet
 - Mary Rowlandson, excerpts from *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*
 - a selection of 18th-century writings: St. J. de Crèvecoeur, T. Jefferson, P. Wheatley, C. Brockden Brown
 - Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle"
 - Edgar Allan Poe, "The Masque of the Red Death"; "The Black Cat"; "The Tell-Tale Heart";
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineaux"

Background material: R. Gray, *A History of American Literature* (Blackwell); *La letteratura degli Stati Uniti dal Rinascimento americano ai giorni nostri*. A cura di C. Iuli e P. Loreto (Carocci). [these books will be on reserve in the library]. All the other texts (including additional secondary sources) are available on MOODLE:
<http://moodle2.units.it/moodle/>