

American Literature II

Enikő Bollobás

This is a course surveying 20th century American literature. The readings are arranged chronologically, beginning with early modernist texts and ending with late 20th century multiculturalism. Our main concern throughout the course will be to explore diversity and multiplicity in American literature; so, in addition to canonical texts, we will discuss authors formerly marginalized for reasons relating to race, gender, sexuality, and class. Students are required to read the texts in English and to be able to discuss them in English too.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Except for the complete novels, which can be checked out from SEAS and other libraries, the primary readings can be found in the following anthologies: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, fourth edition, vol. II; *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, second edition, vol. II. Several texts can be found on the internet too, especially from the first part of the reading list. An electronic READER containing the harder to find poems has been posted on SEAS (see course materials).
2. Secondary readings: relevant chapters from the textbook we used in the first semester too (Bollobás Enikő, *Az amerikai irodalom története*. Budapest: Osiris, 2005).

Required Primary Readings and Relevant chapters from *Az amerikai irodalom története*

1. Modernism, Modernity

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 285-294

2. Imagism

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 300-308

T. E. Hulme, "Autumn," "Conversion"; F. S. Flint, "The Swan"

Ezra Pound, "In a Station of the Metro," "L'art, 1910," "Alba," "Doria," "The Jewel Stairs' Grievance," "A Girl," "Li Po," "Pagani's, November 8," "The Tea Shop"

William Carlos Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow," "Poem," "The Great Figure," "The Rose"

Amy Lowell, "A Decade"

Ezra Pound, "A Retrospect"

3. American Modernist Poetry I

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 308-313, 322-331

Robert Frost, "After Apple-picking," "Mending Wall," "The Road Not Taken," "Mowing"

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

4. American Modernist Poetry II

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 331-357, 426-433, 440-444

William Carlos Williams, "By the road to the contagious hospital," "Queen-Ann's-Lace,"
"Portrait of a Lady," "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus," "Young Sycamore"
Wallace Stevens, "Idea of Order at Key West"
H. D., "Oread," "Orchard", "Eurydice"

5. Modernist Fiction I

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 371-375, 386-395

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, "Hills Like White Elephants"

6. Modernist Fiction II

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 378-384

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

7. Modernist Fiction III

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 395-413, 446-450

William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, "A Rose for Emily"
Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*

8. The New Negro Renaissance

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 459-488

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Nella Larsen, *Passing*
Richard Wright, *Native Son*

9. Modern American Drama

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 489-500, 729-744, 748-751

Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*
Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Arthur Miller, *The Death of a Salesman*
Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

10. Postmodern poetry

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 526-562

Charles Olson, "Variations Done for Gerald Van De Wiele"; "Projective Verse"
Robert Duncan, "Structure of Rhyme, XI," "Often I am Permitted to Return to a Meadow"
Robert Creeley, "I Know a Man," "Mountains in the Desert"
Denise Levertov, "Beyond the End," "The Jacob's Ladder," "Stepping Westward," "Illustrious Ancestors," "Woman Alone"

11. Post-World War II and Postmodern Fiction

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 626-627, 592-595, 644-675

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

John Barth, *The End of the Road*

12. Major women writers of the present

Required reading from *Az amerikai irodalom története*: 675-684, 707-710, 717-718

Alice Walker, *Color Purple*, Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*, Toni Morrison, *Beloved*