

JYOTI NIVAS COLLEGE AUTONOMOUS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER
B,A. MAJOR ENGLISH PAPER IV (UNDER SEP)
AMERICAN LITERATURE
(NOV 2025 ONWARDS)

NO. OF CREDITS- 4

NO. OF HOURS- 60

Teaching Objectives:

- To introduce students to the history, culture, ethos and sensibility of the American people through a study of the literatures of the United States of America.
- To familiarise students with the range and diversity of voices and identities emerging from America

Learning Outcomes:

- Students get familiarised with diverse spaces like African- American and minority spaces as well as literary periods from Nationalist to Contemporary.
- Students become aware of an inter-disciplinary angle to cultural development in the US including the rise of Immigration, Capitalism and Mass Culture.
- Students are exposed to Modern American social and political realities and identities.

UNIT I– Early Settler, Colonial and Nationalist (8 Hours)

1. William Bradford: Of Plymouth Plantation
2. Thomas Jefferson: The Declaration of Independence

Unit II- Romantic and Transcendentalist (10 Hours)

1. Nathaniel Hawthorne : The Scarlet Letter
2. Emily Dickinson: I Heard a Fly Buzz When I died
3. Walt Whitman: A Noiseless Patient Spider

UNIT III- Realism and Naturalism (4 Hours)

1. Mark Twain: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Unit IV - Modern and Contemporary (12 Hours)

1. Ernest Hemingway: Hills Like White Elephants
2. Allen Ginsberg : A Supermarket in California
3. Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire

Unit V - Native American Narratives (8 Hours)

1. Native American Trickster Tales
2. Scott Momaday: Prayer for Words

Unit VI- African American Narratives (8 Hours)

1. Toni Morrison: The Bluest Eye
2. Langston Hughes: I, Too
3. Sojourner Truth: Ain't I A Woman?

Unit VII - Minority Space

(10 Hours)

1. Amy Tan: The Joy Luck Club
2. Bernard Malamud: The Assistant

Supplementary Reading/ viewing

1. Legends of the Fall (Film Text)
2. The Great Gatsby
3. To Kill a Mocking Bird
4. The Catcher in the Rye
5. Tom Sawyer
6. Uncle Tom's Cabin
7. Farewell to Arms
8. Moby Dick (Film text)
9. Fredrick Douglas selections

References:

1. F O Matthiessen: The American Renaissance – Introduction
2. Sculley Bradley et al: The American Tradition and Literature–The Emergence of Modern American Literature.