

**School of Undergraduate Studies**

**Ambedkar University Delhi**

**Course Outline**

**Time Slot-Monday: 2:45-4:45, Wed: 11-1**

**Course Code:** SUS1EN247

**Title:** American Literature

**Type of Course:** Elective

**Cohort for which it is compulsory:**

**Cohort for which it is elective:** All disciplines

**No of Credits:** 4

**Semester and Year Offered:** 3rd Semester (Monsoon Semester 2018)

**Course Coordinator and Team:** Gunjeet Aurora

**Email of course coordinator:** gunjeet@aud.ac.in

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Aim:** The course explores the foundations of an identity of American literature independent of its European predecessors. It also seeks to sensitize the students towards the meaning of democracy and how it has evolved, suffered setbacks and often even been questioned in the nineteenth century in United States of America. By reading some literature produced during the period of American Renaissance and some which came later, one seeks to understand the nature of evolution of the American identity and its relationship with major political events like the Civil War.

**Brief description of modules/ Main modules:**

**1. American Transcendentalism:**

Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The American Scholar"

Henry David Thoreau: "Civil Disobedience"

**2. American Romanticism, Gothic and the Short Story:**

Edgar Allen Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher”

Herman Melville: “Bartleby, the Scrivener”

Nathaniel Hawthorne: Introduction to *The House of the Seven Gables*, “Rappaccini’s Daughter”, “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” and “Young Goodman Brown”

**3. Life Narratives:**

Frederick Douglass: Chapters 1-4, *Narrative of The Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*

**4. Poetry:**

Selections from Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*

Selections from Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson

**5. The American Novel:**

Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Assessment Details with weights:**

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Mid Semester Exam	As per academic calendar	30%
2	Assignment	October	30%
3	End Semester Exam	As per academic calendar	40%