

# American Literature & Culture—Movements, Memory, Meaning

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Last Updated: Tue, 01/06/2026

**Course prefix:** LMC

**Course number:** 3511

**Section:** B

**CRN**

33349

**Instructor first name:** Randall

**Instructor last name:** Harrell

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

This course surveys major movements in American literature from early foundations to the late twentieth century, with an emphasis on how literature reflects, resists, and reimagines the cultural and political forces that shaped the United States. Through poetry, short fiction, nonfiction, and novels, we will examine how authors have engaged with foundational questions around identity, freedom, race, gender, labor, and belonging. Major literary movements covered include Romanticism and Transcendentalism, Realism and Naturalism, Modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, Postmodernism, and contemporary experimentalism. Authors **could possibly** include Herman Melville, Kate Chopin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ernest Hemingway, Allen Ginsberg, Langston Hughes, Frank O'Hara, Hart Crane, Henry David Thoreau, Annie Dillard, William Carlos Williams, Alison Hedge Coke, Toni Morrison, and David Foster Wallace. Students will engage in literary analysis, historical contextualization, and critical writing through a combination of essays, short reflections, and/or digital creative projects.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the assignment and possibly be referred to the Office of Student Integrity. You should be familiar with these Georgia Tech sites:

- Honor Challenge — <https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>
- Office of Student Integrity — <https://osi.gatech.edu/index.php/>

**A Note Addressing Artificial Intelligence:**

This course is about growing in your ability to write, communicate, and think critically. Generative AI agents should only be used as tools. Tools cannot learn or communicate for you, and they cannot meet the course requirements for you. AI cannot stand in for your voice and your ideas. Work generated with AI and submitted will be treated as if it is plagiarized work—which leads the student to fail the assignment and possibly be referred to the Office of Student Integrity.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

This is a **Core IMPACTS** course that is part of the **Arts, Humanities & Ethics** area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with **essential knowledge in foundational academic areas**. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

**This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:**

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

**Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:**

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

**Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:**

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence