

# AMERICAN LITERATURE II – PROFESSOR VERA LIMA CECCON

## SYLLABUS FOR 2011 – II

WK	DATE	CLASS CONTENT	DETAILS	GRADE
1	12-aug	general introduction to the course	1st call for groups	
2	19-aug	I. HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND LITERARY PANORAMA: 19th CENTURY UNITED STATES		CR=2,0
3	26-aug		3rd call for groups	
4	2-sept		final call for groups + raffle	
5	9-sept			
6	16-sept			
7	23-sept			
8	30-set	II. seminars <i>BLACKS IN AMERICA</i> : a. Joel Chandler Harris / b. Frederick Douglass		S=3,0
X	7-oct	JIC		
9	14-oct	II. seminars <i>OFF THE CANON</i> : c. The Indian Heritage/ d. Songs Of The Folk		
10	21-oct	III. GREAT NAMES OF THE CANON: Emerson, Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman (and if possible, Mark Twain)	announcement of <i>themes</i> for final works	CR=2,0
11	28-oct			
12	4-nov			
13	11-nov		choice of modality of <i>final works</i>	
14	18-nov			
15	25-nov			
16	2-dec	III. GREAT NAMES OF THE CANON (final) or		FW=5,0
17	9-dec	IV. FINAL WORKS (oral modules)		
	19-dec	FINAL WORKS (written modules= final essays)		

OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF SEMESTER AT UFRJ: 8th August/ OFFICIAL END: 17th December

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### 1. CONTINUOUS EVALUATION

This course runs in a system of *continuous evaluation*: you'll be evaluated continuously, instead of sitting for traditional exams. You'll be evaluated in 3 or 4 instances: *a class report, a seminar, a final essay* and, if you choose, *an oral presentation*.

CR=2.0	CLASS REPORTS	Every week at the end of each class 2 or 3 students will be raffled at random to hand over a written class report at the beginning of the following week. (range: 400-600 words)
S=3.0	SEMINARS	During seminar days, 2 groups will share the class time. Each group has 45 minutes for seminar presentation. Groups are encouraged to use multimedia resources but not obliged to: traditional seminars are also welcome. Reservation of projectors and special rooms are group's responsibility. Handouts to classmates are compulsory.
FW=5.0	FINAL WORKS (modalities still to be confirmed)	Final works are worth a total of 5,0 points and will have their themes announced by week 10. They can be authored by 1, 2 or 3 students of the same group and be presented in 2 modalities: a. ONLY WRITTEN = a final essay (700-1000 words) worth 5,0 points b. MIXED = an oral presentation + an essay (700-1000 words) both gravitating around the same theme; worth respectively 2,0+3,0 or 2,5+2,5 or 3,0+2,0 (still to be confirmed)

### 2. TECHNICAL DATA

#### 2.1. EMENTA OFICIAL (IN PORTUGUESE)

O século XIX na Literatura Americana. Transcendentalismo: facetas do movimento representadas por Emerson e Thoreau. Duas manifestações poéticas: Walt Whitman e Emily Dickinson. Humorismo: Mark Twain. Romance psicológico precursor: Henry James.

#### 2.2. BIBLIOGRAPHY (COMPULSORY! ATTENTION: TWO VOLUMES!)

CECCON, Vera Lima. *American Literature in the 19th century*. BOOK 1. mimeo, 2010-I (available at Xerox-Faculdade de Letras)  
CECCON, Vera Lima. *American Literature in the 19th century*. BOOK 2. mimeo, 2010-II (attention! only available at COPPE's Xerox, *Amiga Digital*, CT, bloco H, underground)

#### 2.3. THE WEBSITE

<http://www.lettras.ufrj.br/veralima/litam2>

#### 2.4. PROFESSOR'S EMAIL

Please contact the professor only if strictly necessary and always include "LIT AM 2" in the subject of your e-message to: [veralimaceccon@gmail.com](mailto:veralimaceccon@gmail.com). If professor needs to contact students, she will do so through the *representative members* of the groups. Final essays might be e-mailed individually but must contain "LIT AM 2" in the subject of the message!

### 3. GROUPS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

At the beginning of the semester, students should split themselves into a max. of 4 groups. Each group should elect a *representative member* who will be the contact bridge between the Professor and the others, in case of last minute notices. Therefore the representative has to provide a valid email address, cell and home numbers, and be easily contactable.

### 4. EDITORIAL NORMS FOR PAPERS (CLASS REPORTS AND ESSAYS)

#### 4.1. IN GENERAL

- use only black ink
- set the margins for: left=top=bottom=3 cm and right=1 cm

## 4.2. IDENTIFICATION HEADING

- font: Arial, 10pt, space 1
- identify yourself and the report on the top of the page as in the following example:

DISCIPLINE: AMERICAN LITERATURE II, 2011-II

CLASS: LEI (LEJ), GROUP 2

NAME: Maria José da Silva

CLASS REPORT REFERRING TO LECTURE X – DATE: 7-May 2010

## 4.3. BODY TEXT

- font: Arial, 12pt, space 1,5
- paragraph indentation on the 1<sup>st</sup> line: 1 cm
- language: English or Portuguese

## 4.4. DEADLINES:

- Deadlines are to be strictly obeyed or the grade will not be granted. Class reports must be handed in the following week of the raffle. If you must miss this class, please *email* your class report: *reports by email will only be accepted in this case.*

## 5. IMPORTANT REMARKS

### 5.1. NO TOLERANCE TO PLAGIARISM

- attention: plagiarism will not be tolerated and will imply “fail” in the discipline !

### 5.2. ACADEMIC PAPER STRUCTURE

- All papers must have 3 main body sections: *introduction, development and conclusion.*
- They should also contain at least one quotation from a printed reliable source and a bibliography. For instructions on how to format these two elements, please consult the professors website on: <http://www.lettras.ufri.br/veralima/litam2>

### 5.3. REPORTS ≠ ESSAYS

- The main purpose of the *class report* activity is to train your capacities of observation and concision and to transpose them to the written medium in an academic tone. Therefore you should focus **only in one aspect that caught your attention during the class and explain in your own words why it did so.** In order to do this properly you are encouraged to further your knowledge about the issue by referring to the booklet or another reliable source.
- Essays are more formal and by definition rely on research. Nevertheless you are expected to develop your own ideas and opinions in them too, as long as you are supported by reliable sources.
- Reports are to be written individually. Essays might be written individually or in *duos* or *trios* of students of the same group

### 5.4. RELIABLE SOURCES

- As a general rule, printed materials are more reliable than electronic ones. So, prefer the library to the internet, if possible.
- However, the web has become a great source of information and ideas too. To avoid problems w/ internet resources, always try to rely on academic sources (websites of professors or academic institutions or trustworthy periodicals), that is, look for signed materials. So, please, avoid Wikipedias, Sparknotes and similar, since the materials are not signed.

### 5.5. STYLE, ASSESSMENT AND OTHER ISSUES

- You will find important information about style and criteria of assessment at the end of the booklet and on the website.
- Don't forget to revise your paper before handing it!

## 6. OTHER ISSUES

### 6.1. GRADES

Grades vary from A to E, according to the following scales (or in proportion to them):

	A EXCELLENT	A-	B+	B GOOD	B-	C+	C OK	C-	D+	D POOR	D-	E+	E FAIL
scale 1	1,0	0,9	0,85	0,75	0,65	0,6	0,5	0,4	0,35	0,25	0,15	0,1	0,0
scale 2	2,0	1,8	1,7	1,5	1,3	1,2	1,0	0,8	0,7	0,5	0,3	0,2	0,0

### 6.2. PUNCTUALITY AND RESPECT FOR THE WORK FLOW

Please, be punctual to avoid problems and stay until the end of the class. Late arrivals and early leavers ALWAYS disturb the work flow and the concentration of a class! Be attentive to change of classrooms due to *multimedia* sessions.

### 6.3. CLASSES OF ENROLMENT

Although the same Professor lectures in both LEI and LEJ classes, all students must remain in their classes of enrolment in respect to their groups. So, you mustn't swap classes between LEI and LEJ along the semester. If you have to change classes, you must do so administratively through *seção de ensino* early in the semester.

### 6.4. ATTENDANCE: MAXIMUM OF 4 ABSENCES (AND NO APPEAL!)

You are entitled to have *one absence canceled* if you produce a medical or work certificate within 2 weeks of the leave. For that purpose, use the *special leave form* at the end of the booklet.

### 6.5. FINAL ISSUE: CONDUCT IN CLASS:

Since most of the activities are group-related, it's essential that you feel not only responsible for the performance of your group but also comfortable in it. Therefore, choose your group carefully, among classmates you respect and consider of similar academic level. The more integrated the group, the better the chances of high grades. It's also essential to keep a friendly and respectful atmosphere among the groups. So, please, be quiet and attentive while you attend the presentation of another group and of the lecturer too.