ENG 251
American Literature I

I.   ENG 251 American Literature I – 3 Semester Hours

II.   Course Description

This course is a survey of American literature from its inception to the middle of the nineteenth century. Emphasis is placed on representative works and writers of this period and on the literary, cultural, historical, and philosophical forces that shaped these works and that are reflected in them. Upon completion and in written compositions, students will be able to interpret the aesthetic and thematic aspects of these works, relate the works to their historical and literary contexts, and understand relevant criticism and research.

III.   Prerequisite

ENG 102 or equivalent.

IV.   Textbook

Due to the varied selection of quality college level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

V.   Course Objectives

1. The student will develop through the assigned literature the cognitive skills to read, interpret, and evaluate prose, poetry, and drama.
2. The student will identify cultural, historical, and philosophical forces revealed in and illustrated by the assigned literature.
3. The student will identify both the thematic and the aesthetic significance of the assigned literary works and will place the thematic and aesthetic concerns of a work in the context of the historical/literary period of the work.
4. The student will recognize the role that the assigned literature has played in creating the cultural and philosophical foundations of contemporary society.
5. The student will understand literary scholarship and its relation to the primary literary works.
VI. **Course Outline of Topics**

1. The topics presented will include the major themes and techniques characteristic of the literary movements covered in this course and illustrated by the works of representative writers.
2. The student will read a substantial body of primary literature appropriate to this course.
3. The student will write at least two major compositions that together analyze, synthesize, and evaluate literary works and/or related the assigned literature to other disciplines and to broader human concerns. At least one of the compositions will demonstrate the student’s knowledge and understanding of literary research and scholarship.

VII. **Evaluation and Assessment**

The student will take at least two examinations that entail considerable writing and that are devised to assess student achievement of course objectives. Quizzes may be given to encourage and to assess the student’s reading of assigned literature. Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student’s ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

IX. **Statement on Discrimination/Harassment**

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

X. **Americans with Disabilities**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.