

**THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY  
HYDERABAD 500 007**



**SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
M.A. ENGLISH – PART II**

**COURSE IV: AMERICAN FICTION**

(This set of assignments has 2 printed pages.)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Each Assignment is based on the Blocks of the course material; so read the Blocks, and the texts discussed in it, before attempting the Assignments for that Blocks.
2. Answers should be appropriately and adequately illustrated with references to the texts studied in the Units. Answers lifted verbatim from the course material, the internet, or other sources will be awarded poor grades.

**Assignment 1  
(Based on Block I & II)**

**ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).**

1. Discuss America as a state of colonies and migrants in the beginning.
2. “The early American literature is more political than literary”. Substantiate this statement with suitable arguments.
3. Explain *Moby-Dick* as an epic on whaling.
4. Write a note on quest for freedom as one of the themes in Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
5. Comment on the influence of F Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway on American fiction.

**ASSIGNMENT 2  
(BASED ON BLOCK III)**

**ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).**

1. What are the innovative narrative techniques used in the writings of William Faulkner and John Steinbeck?
2. Elaborate the theme of Home and Homelessness in Toni Morrison’s *Bluest Eye*.
3. Write a critical note on the theme of the myth of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in Joyce Carol Oates’ *A Garden of Earthly Delights*.

4. Discuss the representation of the Jewish tradition in Saul Bellow's *Herzog*, and Bernard Malamud's *The Assistant*.

**Assignment 3**  
**(Based on Block IV)**

**ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).**

1. Write a note on Symbolism, Style and Imagery in Stephen Crane's short fiction.
2. Write a critical note on the portrayal of class, heritage and family pride in Katherine Anne Porter's short fiction.

**Assignment IV**  
**(Based on Block V)**

**ATTEMPT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (AROUND 500-750 WORDS EACH).**

1. Critically analyze the combination of the comic, the tragic and the brutal in O'Conner's fiction.
2. How is the horror of science depicted in Kurt Vonnegut's short tales?
3. Write a note on despair, rage and violence in Walker's fiction