

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



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

COURSE III: AMERICAN POETRY AND DRAMA
(This set of assignments is printed on 2 pages.)

Assignment 1
(Based on Block I)

- 1 Trace the evolution of American writing since the discovery of the nation. (500 words)
- 2 The origin and growth of American Literature are intimately connected with the growth of America as a Nation. Discuss. (1000 words)

Assignment 2
(Based on Block II)

- 1 Write short notes on the Fireside poets and comment on the poetic sensibilities of any two of these poets. (1500 words)
- 2 Comment on the elements of darkness and mystery in Poe's 'The Raven'. What are the different allusions made in the poem? (750 words)
- 3 'Dickinson presents images from everyday life and makes poetic observations'. Discuss this statement with reference to the poems discussed in Unit 2. (500 words)
- 4 Write short notes on: (300 words each)
 - a. American transcendentalism
 - b. Personal elements in the poems of Anne Bradstreet
 - c. Walt Whitman

Assignment 3
(Based on Block III)

- 1 Ezra Pound expounded his slogan 'Make it new' as a battle cry for Modernism. Comment on how this 'newness' manifests in poetry by referring to any two Modernist poems discussed in Units 1 & 2 of this Block. (750 words)
- 2 Discuss the characteristics of the Imagist movement in America with reference to the poems of William Carlos Williams. (500 words)

- 3 Write short notes on the following: (300 words each)
 - a. Marianne Moore
 - b. Beat poets
 - c. The simplicity and philosophy of Robert Frost's poems
- 4 Discuss how the degenerative quality of the Modern period extends to personal lives, and how this is reflected through Confessional poetry. Elucidate by referring to instances from the poems of Plath and Lowell. (750 words)

Assignment 4
(Based on Block IV)

- 1 Analyze *The Emperor Jones* as an expressionist play. O'Neill is known to have popularized the genre of drama in America. Explore the different elements in this play that may have reached out to the audience. (1000 words)
- 2 Write short notes on the Theatre of the Absurd. Explore how ideas of suffering, memory, and monotony are embedded in the plays, *Death of a Salesman* and *The Zoo Story*. (1000 words)
- 3 What are the characteristics of a quintessential American Comedy. Explain with reference to *You Can't Take It With You*. (500 words)
- 4 Trace the growth of American drama with special reference to O'Neil, Tennessee Williams, and Arthur Miller. (1000 words)