

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD 500 007



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

COURSE III: AMERICAN POETRY AND DRAMA
ASSIGNMENTS (2020 – 2021)

(This set of assignments is printed on 2 pages.)

Assignment 1
(Based on Block I)

- I. Write a note on the discovery of America, and trace the origin and growth of the different genres of literature post colonization. (1500 words)

Assignment II
(Based on Block II)

- I. What do you infer about the Puritan, New England society from the tone, language and concerns of the poems by Anne Bradstreet? (1000 words)
- II. Explore the gothic elements in 'The Raven' (500 words)
- III. What is American Transcendentalism? Comment on the transcendental spirit of the poems by Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman. (1000-1500 words)

Assignment III
(Based on Block III)

I. How do the poems of Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton embody the features of Confessional poetry? (1500 words)

II. Examine how different and distinctive images come together to present the complex metaphorical journey of an explorer in the poem 'Diving into the Wreck' by Adrienne Rich. (1000 words)

III. Write short notes on the following poets and the significance of their contribution to American Literature: (500 words each)

- a) William Carlos Williams
- b) Robert Frost
- c) Marianne Moore
- d) Wallace Stevens

IV. How did the modernist movement flourish in America? Elucidate with reference to the poems by the modernist poets you have read about in Block III. (1500 words)

Assignment IV
(Based on Block IV)

I. Discuss the significance of dreams, memories and illusions in 'The Glass Menagerie'. (1000 words)

II. With reference to the plays 'You Can't Take It With You' and 'The Odd Couple', discuss how humour is used to present the complexities of human nature and relationships. (1500 words)

III. What is 'Theatre of the Absurd'? Elucidate with reference to 'The Zoo Story' and 'Death of a Salesman'. (1000 words)

IV. Describe how Eugene O' Neill presents the journey of Emperor Jones through the mode of Expressionism. What affect does this mode have on the audience/reader? (1000 words)