

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



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

**COURSE IV: AMERICAN FICTION
ASSIGNMENTS (2017 – 2018)**
(This set of assignments has 2 printed pages.)

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

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.

**Assignment 2
(Based on Block II)**

1. What are the major concerns of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s and Herman Melville’s writings?
2. Do we find the features of realism in Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and Henry James’ *The Portrait of a Lady*? Explain.
3. Comment on the influence of F Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway on American fiction.

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

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 4
(Based on Block IV)

1. Explain the major issues of feminism raised by Kate Chopin in her short stories.
2. Elaborate Gothicism as a significant theme in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories.

Assignment 5
(Based on Block V)

1. Write a critical note on the major themes of Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*.
2. Explain how writers such as Alice Walker and Flannery O' Conner represent the lives of African-Americans in their writing.
3. How is the horror of science depicted in Kurt Vonnegut's short tales?
4. Analyse how John Barth illustrates real life incidents in his short stories.

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