ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FALL 2026-2027
COURSE SYLLABUS

ELL 372 American Poetry **Dr. Özkan Çakırlar**

Course Description and Objectives:
The field of "American poetry" is vast, and includes the writings of indigenous peoples and slaves of the northern and southern continents; poetic developments in North America, from the early European colonial settlements to the diverse cultural and linguistic perspectives of contemporary poets; and developments in South America, from expressions of imperial cultures to various modernisms, and new voices in feminism and performance art. These traditions include and have been influenced by African, European, British, and other international poetic traditions and cultures. This course focuses on analyzing and discussing poetic texts selected to illustrate particular aspects of these traditions, in their literary, linguistic, cultural or historical contexts.

Course Activities
To be able to create a vivid and fruitful atmosphere of discussion in the class each student should

1. Read the assigned chapters and poems before the discussion sessions.
2. Participate in class discussions.
3. Do research on the related topics.
4. Participate in one midterm and one final exam as well as several quizzes.

References:

Lauter, Paul, ed. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Vols. I-II, 2nd ed. Lexington: D.C. Heath and Company, 1994.

McMichael, George, ed. *Concise Anthology of American Literature*. 2nd ed. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1985.

Arp, R. Thomas. *Perrine's Sound and Sense*. 9th ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1997.

Ellmann, Richard and Robert O'Clair eds. *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*. New York:W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1973.

Course Requirements and Means of Evaluation:
100% attendance is recommended at all classes. A minimum attendance of 60% is mandatory. This means that **students may have no more than 15 hours of absence. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be permitted to take the final examination.** Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance. Reading the assigned texts before each class and participating in class discussions are vital for success in this class. **Students who are found to have committed cheating in an examination or plagiarism on an assignment will fail the examination or assignment. Further action will also be taken if necessary. Please see university regulations.**

Final grades will include:

a. Quiz Averages 30%
b. Midterm Examination 30%
c. Final Examination 40%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

1st Week (Sept. 28-Oct. 2):	**Discussion on the Syllabus and Introduction** **Early Native American Literature: Oral Tradition** **Video: Colonial History of the USA (30 min.)**
2nd Week (October 5-9):	"Indian-American Poems" **The Literature of Colonial America** **Philip Freneau** "On the Emigration to America"
3rd Week (October 12-16):	**The Age of Realism** **Walt Whitman** "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer" "The Dalliance Of The Eagles" **Emily Dickinson** "I taste a liquor never brewed" "I Died for Beauty"
4th Week (October 19-23):	**20th Century American Poetry** **Harlem Renaissance** **Langston Hughes** "Theme for English B" **Claude McKay** "America" **Countee Cullen** "Yet Do I Marvel"
5th Week (October 26-30):	**Robert Frost** "Desert Places" **Edna St. Vincent Millay** "Love is not All" **Amy Lowell** "Opal" "The Letter"
6th Week (November 2-6):	**E.E. Cummings** "O sweet spontaneous" "my sweet old etcetera" "plato told" **Wallace Stevens** "Disillusionment of Ten O'Clock"
7th Week (November 9-13):	**REVISION and MIDTERM EXAM**
8th Week (November 16-20):	**MIDTERM EXAM FEEDBACK**

9th Week (November 23-27):	**William Carlos Williams** "At The Ball Game" **Robinson Jeffers** "Vulture" "The Purse-Seine"
10th Week (Nov. 30-Dec. 4):	**Marianne Moore** "Poetry" **Louise Bogan** "Women" **Theodore Roethke** "Root Cellar"
11th Week (December 7-11):	**Richard Wilbur** "Epistemology" **Lawrence Ferlinghetti** "Constantly Risking Absurdity" **Allen Ginsberg** "A Supermarket in California"
12th Week (December 14-18):	**Denise Levertov** "Come into Animal Presence" **Anne Sexton** "The Farmer's Wife" **A.R. Ammons** "Unsaid"
13th Week (December 21-25):	**Ada Limón** "Instructions on Not Giving Up" **Jericho Brown** "Bullet Points"
14th Week (December 28-31):	**Poems for Further Reading** **REVISION and PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL EXAM**

I WISH US ALL A SUCCESSFUL TERM ☺