COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will track key developments and major figures in the formation and rise to prominence of American literature and American culture.

Keeping one eye on their long-term impact on U.S. literature, culture and thought, we will read works by writers ranging from Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Phillis Wheatley (in America’s revolutionary era); to works by authors such as Herman Melville, Ralph Emerson, Harriet Jacobs and Emily Dickinson (in the era of what has been called the American renaissance), to forward-looking works published in the transition between the 19th and 20th centuries, by writers such as Kate Chopin and W.E.B. DuBois.