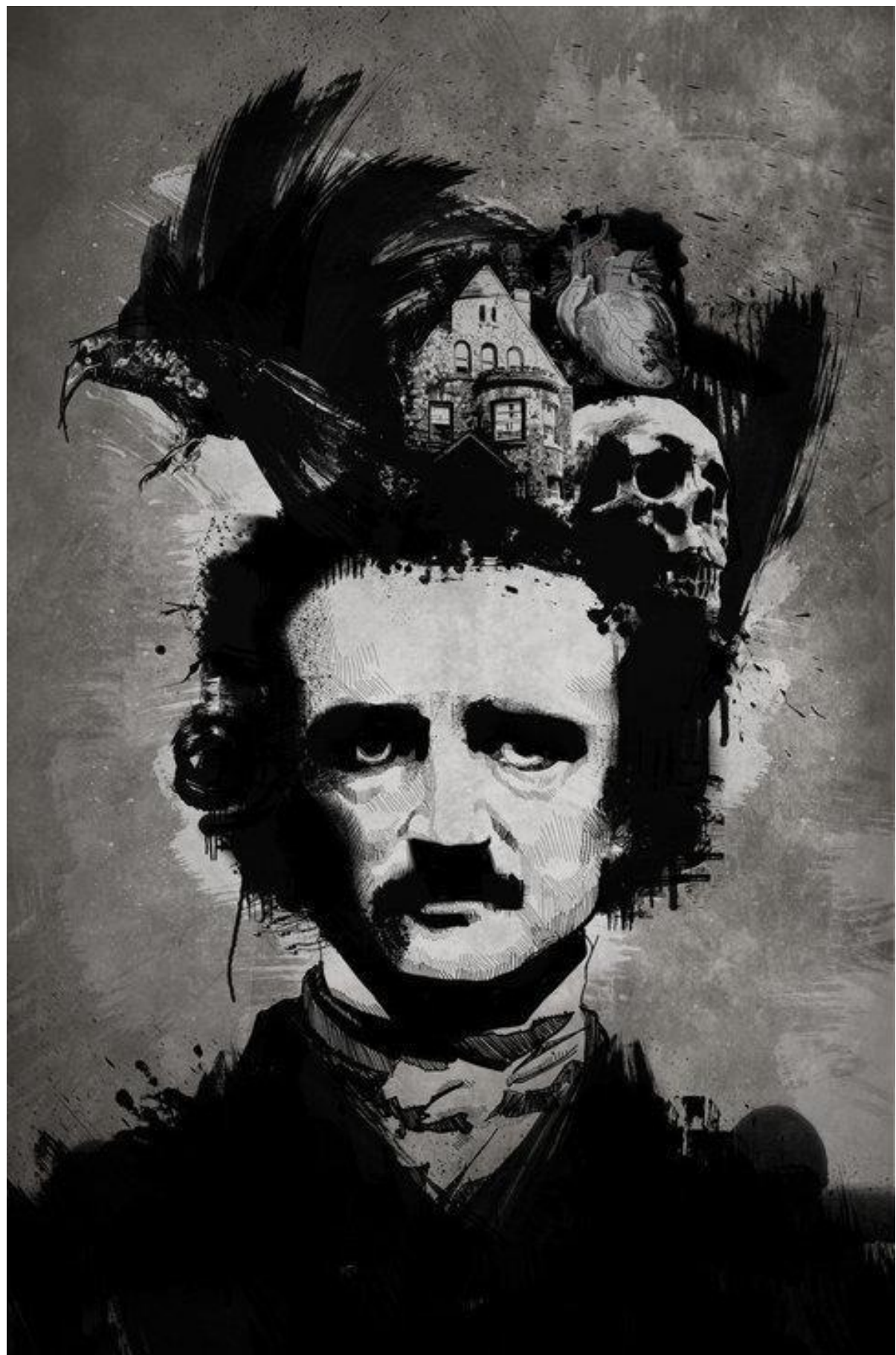




## AL 311

### Survey of American Literature from the 17th to the 19th Century

Fall 2026

Dr. Cihan Yurdaün

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Office: TB 425

Office Hours: By appointment

#### Course Description

This is the first leg of a **survey course** and covers **North American literature** written mainly between the mid-16th and the mid-19th centuries. In this course, we will mostly read selections from canonical figures in American Literature and study significant topics and themes highlighted by those authors in their historical context. Our primary aim is to learn **the unique aspects of American literature** as it develops over time and explore some of the prominent questions it raises.

#### Class Structure and Requirements:

- Although there will be occasional lectures, the class will be based on our discussions of texts, which will require your participation. So, please read the **assigned material for each week**, including the documents uploaded to **Moodle**, and come to class prepared. You can find all **the primary texts** in your course packet.
- **I will take attendance.** You can **miss up to 4 classes** without consequences. Any absence after reaching these numbers will cost you **4% of your total grade** for each class missed.
- You are responsible for all the topics discussed in class. You'll be asked to briefly comment on the day's discussion and provide **a short paragraph response as an assignment**. Each short response will constitute **4% of your final grade**, and there will be 5 of these during the semester. You'll upload your responses to Turnitin. Any detection of AI will result in forfeiture of your response, and you won't earn any points.
- All the necessary class materials will be available **on Moodle**.
- There will be **a Midterm (40%) and a Final exam (40%)**. You cannot skip any of these exams. You'll automatically fail.
- **Participation in class discussions** is a significant part of this course and might boost your **grade by up to 3%**.

#### Grading:

**%20** Short response assignments

**%40** Midterm: Written Exam

**%40** Final: Written Exam

**Letter Grade Layout:** **AA** (100-90), **BA** (89-85), **BB** (84-80), **CB** (79-75), **CC** (74-70), **DC** (69-65), **DD** (64-60), (fail) **F** (59-0)

### **Out of Class Communication Policy**

If you have questions about any aspect of class, you can always email me; please do not hesitate. Office hours are for you. Please use them.

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Week 1** (September 21, 23)

Introduction, American History, Native American Stories

### **Week 2** (September 28, 30)

Native American Stories, Columbus, John Smith

### **Week 3** (October 5, 7)

W. Bradford, Cotton Mather, Anne Bradstreet

### **Week 4** (October 12, 14)

Anne Bradstreet, Benjamin Franklin

### **Week 5** (October 19, 21)

Benjamin Franklin, T. Jefferson, St. J. Crevecoeur,

### **Week 6** (October 26, November 30)

Washington Irving, R.W. Emerson

## **Midterm Week**

### **Week 7** (November 2, 4)

H. Thoreau, E.A.Poe

### **Week 8** (November 9, 11)

E.A.Poe, N. Hawthorne

### **Week 9** (November 16, 18)

N. Hawthorne, H. Melville

### **Week 10** (November 23, November 25)

Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass

### **Week 11** (November 30, December 2)

E.Dickinson

### **Week 12** (December 7, 9)

W. Whitman