

Survey of American Literature I

Fall 2021

ENGL 241
TR 2:30-3:45

Professor Cari Carpenter

This survey of early American literature considers the relationship between multi-vocal texts and the nation with which they are associated. We will approach this literature through a number of questions: who, for instance, has historically counted as “American”? How do these texts engage with the enduring themes of wilderness and civilization, freedom and slavery, self and spirit? Why have certain texts been designated as canonical American literature while others have been overlooked? By pairing conventional texts with those that are lesser known, we will consider the multitude of voices—and possibilities—that exist within American literature. Throughout the semester, we will engage in lively class discussions that challenge and broaden our perceptions of the early literature of what we now know as the United States. Seek—it is Yourself!

