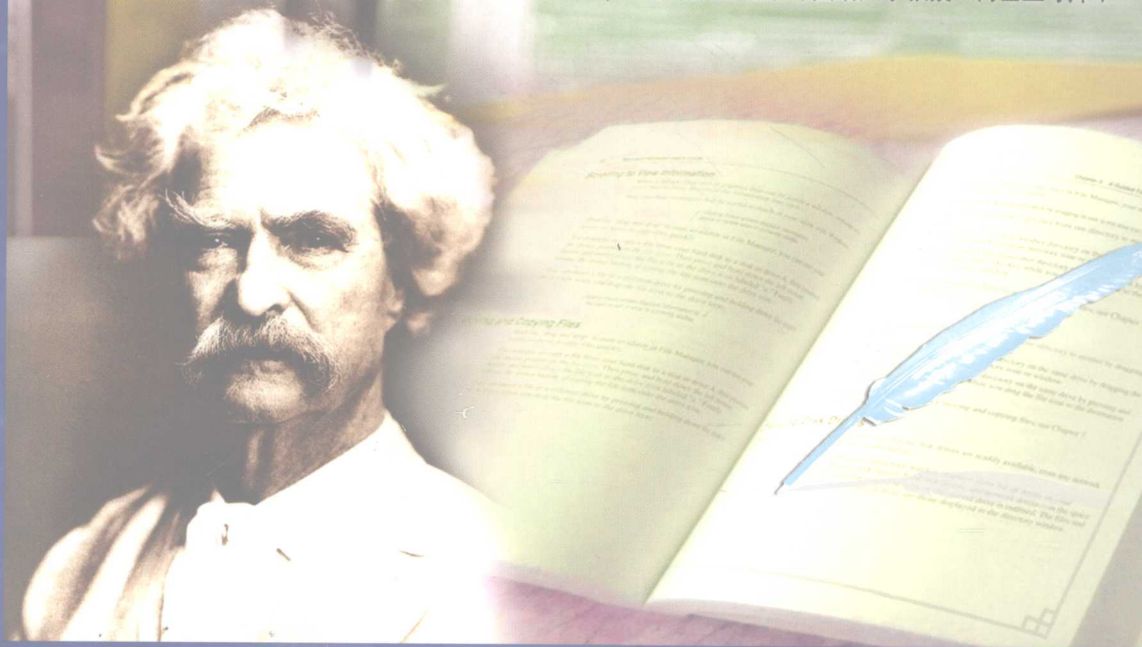




高等学校英语专业系列教材

主审 郭棲庆(北京外国语大学教授、博士生导师)



美国文学简读教程

An Introductory Course of American Literature

主 编 宫玉波 郭海云

副主编 张军学 朱岩岩 王般若 刘晓辉

清华大学出版社·北京交通大学出版社





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内 容 简 介

本书共4章,每章以美国文学史各阶段为主线,精选了美国文学中公认的经典作品作为选读材料,每篇选读都配有对该选读材料的简单介绍、文学评论、难点注释及针对该选读材料进行的提问。每个章节前还附有该文学历史阶段的纲要、文学术语、作家、作品及重要作品的简单扼要的评价。

本书的读者对象为英语专业高年级学生,同时也可供非英语专业高年级学生辅修英美文学课程使用。

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前 言

“高等学校英语专业系列教材”是北京交通大学外语系联合全国近二十所高校的英语专业的同行共同倾力编写的一套供英语专业本科生使用的教材。《美国文学简读教程》是该系列教材之一，是《英国文学简读教程》的姊妹篇，也是北京交通大学科技基金资助项目(2007XM071)。本书的读者对象为英语专业高年级学生，同时也可供非英语专业高年级英美文学辅修课程使用。本书还可作为报考英语专业英美文学方向的硕士生入学考试的参考教材使用。本书精选了美国文学中公认的经典作品作为选读材料，每篇选读材料都配有简单的介绍和文学评论、难点注释和针对该选读材料进行的提问。每个章节前还附有该文学历史阶段的纲要、文学术语、作家、代表作品及对重要作品简单扼要的评价。本书在参考国内几乎所有的英美文学教材的基础上，同时根据参编兄弟院校的特点精心编写而成。在选读作品的筛选上，编者们尽其所能在浩如烟海的美国文学中采撷最引人注目的浪花奉献给读者。

本书的编写者都是英美文学专业的教授、副教授和博士。他们都有多年的文学授课的经历。该书在此前一直作为自编讲义使用，很受学生欢迎。

由于编者水平所限，错误和不当之处望广大同仁和学生批评指正。

编 者
2008年9月于北京

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Chapter 1

The Literature of Early and Revolutionary Periods



I. An Outline of the Literature of This Period

Name of the Writer	Works	Brief Description
<p>John Smith (1580 – 1631) (约翰·史密斯)</p> <p>He was considered to be the “first author” in the history of American literature.</p>	<p><i>A True Relation of Virginia</i> 《关于弗吉尼亚的真实叙述》</p> <p><i>A Map of Virginia with a Description of the County</i> 《弗吉尼亚的地图》</p>	<p><i>A True Relation of Virginia</i> is considered to be the “first book” in American literature.</p>
<p>William Bradford (1588 – 1657) (威廉·布拉福德)</p> <p>He was considered to be “the father of American history”.</p>	<p><i>History of Plymouth Plantation</i> 《普利茅斯种植园史》</p>	
<p>John Winthrop (1588 – 1649) (约翰·温斯罗普)</p>	<p><i>The History of New England</i> 《新英格兰史》</p>	

<p>Anne Bradstreet (1612 - 1672) (安妮·布拉德斯里特)</p> <p>She was the first poetess in the colonial period.</p>	<p><i>The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung up in America</i> 《最近在北美出现的第十位缪斯》</p>	
<p>Jonathan Edwards (1703 - 1758) (乔纳森·爱德华兹)</p> <p>He was a great thinker of "the Great Awakening" which refers to a great revival of emotional fervor in America, the movement being at its highest about 1740 - 1745.</p>	<p><i>Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God</i> 《愤怒的上帝手中之罪人》</p>	<p>(1) <i>Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God</i> is his famous sermon.</p> <p>(2) It expresses such basic puritan tenets as God's absolute sovereignty, original sin and predestination.</p>
<p>Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790) (本杰明·富兰克林)</p> <p>(1) He demonstrated all the major principles of the Enlightenment in America.</p> <p>(2) He embodied the transition from Puritan piety, idealism and provincialism to the more secular, utilitarian and cosmopolitan values of the American Enlightenment.</p>	<p><i>Poor Richard's Almanac</i> 《穷理查德的历书》</p> <p><i>The Autobiography</i> 《自传》</p>	<p>(1) <i>Poor Richard's Almanac</i> contains a large number of practical sayings about life.</p> <p>(2) The common theme running through the sayings is that industriousness and discretion are rewarded.</p> <p>(1) <i>The Autobiography</i> records his rising from poverty or humble beginnings to success. It realistically describes the life of Franklin as a shrewd and industrious businessman, whose rags-to-riches experience became the prototype of the American Dream.</p> <p>(2) The prototype embraces such qualities as self-culture, self-improvement, self-reliance, self-</p>

		cultivation, faith in the progress of society and the ideals of future, practical and optimistic attitude toward life and final success.
<p>Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809) (托马斯·潘恩)</p> <p>He was a political pamphleteer and the most persuasive rhetorician for the cause of independence.</p>	<p><i>Common Sense</i> 《常识》 <i>The American Crisis</i> 《美国危机》 <i>Rights of Man</i> 《人的权利》 <i>The Age of Reason</i> 《理性的时代》</p>	<p><i>Common Sense</i> is his most famous political pamphlet, and it is regarded as the greatest of the Revolutionary pamphlets.</p>
<p>Philip Freneau (1752 - 1832) (菲利普·弗伦诺)</p> <p>(1) He was considered as the “poet of the American revolution”, and “the plain-dealing Republican bard who had fought the Revolution through newspaper verse”. He stood out as the most outstanding poet in America of the 18th century. It is generally held that American national poetry started with Freneau’s verse, thus he has been entitled the “Father of American Poetry”.</p> <p>(2) He was a satirist, a bitter polemicist.</p>	<p><i>The Wild Honey Suckle</i> 《野金银花》 <i>The Indian Burying Ground</i> 《印第安人的殡葬地》 <i>The British Ship</i> 《英国囚船》 <i>The Rising Glory of America</i> 《美国的荣耀蒸蒸日上》</p>	<p>(1) <i>The Wild Honey Suckle</i> is Freneau’s best lyric.</p> <p>(2) It anticipated the 19th-century use of simple nature imagery.</p> <p>(1) <i>The Indian Burying Ground</i> anticipated romantic primitivism and the celebration of the “Noble Savage”.</p> <p>(2) The poem dwells on the imagined afterlife.</p>

<p>(3) He wrote many poems encouraging revolution and encouraging the glory that would be won by overcoming the British.</p> <p>(4) His poetic spark was of romanticism by temperament.</p> <p>(5) His themes cover nature, death, vicissitudes of life and immortality.</p>		
<p>Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826) (托马斯·杰弗逊)</p> <p>(1) He was one of the founding fathers of the United States of America.</p> <p>(2) He drafted The Declaration of Independence.</p>	<p><i>The Declaration of Independence</i> 《独立宣言》</p>	<p>(1) <i>The Declaration of Independence</i> was adopted July 4, 1776.</p> <p>(2) It not only announced the birth of a new nation, but also expounded a philosophy of human freedom.</p> <p>(3) It lists 13 cruelties committed by the King of Britain.</p> <p>(4) The famous lines are: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."</p> <p>(5) Thomas Jefferson's thought was inspired by the thoughts of John Locke.</p>

II. Benjamin Franklin

Poor Richard's Almanac¹ (Excerpt)

Philosophy of Life

One should eat to live, not live to eat.

He's the best physician that knows the worthlessness of the most medicines.

Take counsel in wine, but resolve afterwards in water.

Without justice, courage is weak.

He that won't counseled² can't be helped.

To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.

Whatever begun in anger ends in shame.

The discontented man finds no easy chair.

Eat to please thyself, but dress to please others.

Necessity never made a good bargain.

Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.

To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness.

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

Pain wastes the body; pleasure the understanding.

Don't throw stones at your neighbors', if your own windows are glass.

The worse wheel of the cart makes the most noise.

A little neglect may breed great mischief.

Late children, early orphans.

Applause waits on success.

When the well's dry, we know the worth of water.

Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.

A man in a passion rides a wild horse.

Little strokes fell great oaks.

The cat in gloves catches no mice.

The honest man takes pains, and then enjoys pleasures; the knave takes pleasure, and then suffers pain.

Speak little, do much.

A word to the wise is enough.

Poverty often deprives a man of all spirit and virtue.

Industriousness and Thrift

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

God helps them that help themselves.

The sleeping fox catches no poultry.

Lost time is never found again.

The busy man has few idle visitors; to the boiling pot the flies come not.

Diligence is the mother of good luck, and God gives all things to industry.

Laziness travels so slowly that poverty soon overtakes him.

Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.

Fatigue is the best pillow.

One today is worth two tomorrows.

Since thou are not sure of a minute, throw not away an hour.

The used key is always bright.

Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.

If you would know the worth of money, go and try to borrow some.

Make hay while the sun shines.

It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright.

Friendship, Love and Marriage

Fish and visitors smell in three days.

Visitors should be short, like a Winter's day.

The rotten apple spoils his companion.

He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.

There are three faithful friends—an old wife, an old dog and ready money.

A brother may not be a friend, but a friend will always be a brother.

If you would be loved, love and be lovable.

He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.

Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.

Where there's marriage without love, there will be love without marriage.

He that takes a wife takes care.

Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.

One good husband is worth two good wives; for the scarcer things are the more they're valued.

Learning and Knowledge

Read much, but not too many books.

Where sense is wanting; everything is wanting.

The doors of wisdom are never shut.

There are many witty men whose brains can't fill their bellies.

If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Experience keeps a dear³ school, yet fools will learn in no other.

Most fools think they are only ignorant.

To be proud of knowledge is to be blind with light.

Admiration is the daughter of ignorance.



Notes

1. *Poor Richard's Almanac* is the most famous of American almanacs. The word *almanac* is a Latin word meaning calendar. The book is a collection of wise sayings and practical advice typical of American touch, humor and homely wisdom. Franklin's wise and practical proverbs find their wide application in conversation and daily life. They can serve as guiding principles in almost every aspect of life, though some of Franklin's maxims have lost their practical value with the passage of time. The pithy and witty language expresses Franklin's commonsense philosophy about life to the core. His shrewd maxims drive home the predominant theme—good virtues such as industry and discretion are rewarded.
2. counseled; advised
3. dear; expensive, costly



Understanding the Text

1. How do you understand Franklin's maxim "Don't throw stones at your neighbors', if your own windows are glass"?
2. What's implied in the proverb "It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright"?
3. How do you explain the meaning of the saying "Fish and visitors smell in three days"?
4. Is there any practical value in the saying "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut

afterwards”?

5. Is there anything similar between the maxim “Read much, but not too many books” and the British essayist Bacon’s *Of Studies*? Try to compare and illustrate.

III. Thomas Jefferson

The Declaration of Independence¹

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide New Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless