



新维度外语系列教程



# 实用美国文学教程

**A Practical Course in American Literature**

丛书主编 谢群 陈立华

主编 孔令达 刘娅 郑昭梅 钱俊



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## (Preface)

现今高校使用的美国文学教材种类繁多，各有特点。目前大多数教材共同的特点是以史为重，大部分篇幅在于梳理美国文学发展史，以文学运动和创作思潮为主要线索来串讲文学作品，内容庞大精深，对于有一定文学基础的高年级英语专业学生和美国文学研究者来说，是不可多得的好书，但是对于刚开始接触美国文学的英语学习者，未免过于繁复，学习起来有些吃力。所谓因材施教，要求教育者分清教学对象，针对不同对象的具体要求和具体条件，设定学科的教学要求和方法。在美国文学课程的教授过程中，我们一直感觉缺少一本专门针对全日制高校英语专业的低年级学生的美国文学教材，于是群策群力，编写了此书。

《实用美国文学教程》是新维度外语系列教程丛书之一。这套教材使用覆盖面广，不仅针对大学英语本科学生，也还适合于以英语为第二学位的辅修学生、英语专业大专生、职高学生及成人教育的英语专业学生。本教程秉承简单实用、操作性强的宗旨，务求让老师们使用起来得心应手，学生们理解起来轻松自如，以期获得最好的教学效果。本书一共 12 个单元，大概分为浪漫主义时期、现实主义时期和现代主义时期三个部分，每个部分选取代表作家和作品进行精读和分析。每个单元的编写体例一致，分别按作家生平介绍、主要作品介绍、对作家及其作品的简要评论、选文内容提要、导入问题、选文及注释、课后练习及扩展阅读的顺序安排教材内容。

本书的特点在于：

第一，区别于其他以文学史知识为主的教科书，突出对具体作品的把握和理解，文学史知识被压缩到最低限度，时代背景和文学背景都只有在与具体创作发生直接关系的时候才作简单介绍。对于老师而言，由于课时限制，如果内容太多往往会重头轻尾，完不成规定的教学任务，这本教材特别针对实际课时编写，可以让老师们灵活掌握、自由调整。对于学生来说，透过对这些作品的阅读和赏析，感受英语语言的魅力所在，初步了解一些文学史知识，提高英语学习兴趣并对美国文学有些感性认识，应该说就已经达到教



学的要求。

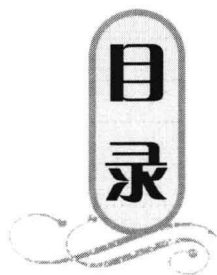
第二，本书设置大量的课后练习，可以说是个新的突破。以往美国文学史教材中几乎都是大篇论述，课堂上也多以老师讲授灌输为主，至于学生是否理解，理解到什么程度，不得而知。针对这一问题，本书编者力求用课后练习来科学量化学生的理解程度，希望教、学两方面使用起来更加方便，也做到各自心中有数。为避免学习枯燥乏味，本书的课后习题丰富多样，包括判断正误、单选、多选、填空、回答问题、写作等常见题型，更有看图描述、情景话剧和影片欣赏等新型活动扩充，希望能使文学课寓教于乐、充满激情。

第三，本书还配套有精心设计的教学 PPT，将多媒体教学引入传统文学课程，探索创新教学方式。

本书在立项、编写、审稿、统稿、定稿和出版等过程中，各个环节都得到了中南财经政法大学外国语学院领导、学科带头人、兄弟院校专业教师以及出版社工作人员的大力支持，在此，对他们表示衷心的感谢。由于编者水平所限，书中错误、缺点和考虑不周之处在所难免，恳切希望读者批评指正。

编 者

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# Unit 1

## Washington Irving

(1783—1859)



### I. Life experiences

1783: Born into a merchant class family with 11 children; named after the hero of the revolution, George Washington.

1798: Sent to Tarrytown for the outbreak of Yellow Fever, where Irving became familiar with the nearby town of Sleepy Hollow and the Hudson and the Catskill mountain region, the setting for his later works.

1802: Began writing letters to the New York *Morning Chronicle* under his first pseudonym and gained some early fame and moderate notoriety.

1807: Created the literary magazine *Salmagundi*, spreading his name and reputation beyond New York.

1809: Published his first major book *A History of New York* to immediate critical and popular success.

1819: Published a set of essays as *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*, which was an enormous success.

1859: Died of a heart attack at the age of 76, only eight months after completing the final volume of his Washington biography.



### II. Major works

➤ *A History of New York* (1809)

➤ *The Sketch Book* (1820), which contains two famous folk tales, *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (the first book by an American writer to achieve international success).

➤ *The Tales of Traveler* (1824)

➤ *A Tour on the Prairies* (1835)



➤ And other works of histories and biographies



### III. Brief comments on Irving and his works

1. Irving is considered as Father of American literature, the first American writer to win international recognition. He was a Romantic with a great sense of tradition, looking to the old world Europe for models.

2. Subject matter: most of Irving's subject matters are borrowed heavily from European sources, which are chiefly Germanic. Irving's relationship with the Old World in terms of his literary imagination can hardly be ignored considering his success both abroad and at home.

3. Themes: Irving's taste is essentially conservative and he always exalts a disappearing past. This social conservatism and literary preference for the past is revealed.

4. Style: graceful, refined, fluent, dignified and standard language; use of humor in his short stories; romantic imagination and fantasies; vivid and picturesque description of setting; his characters are vivid and true; avoiding moralizing as much as possible; good at enveloping his stories in an atmosphere.



### IV. Brief introduction to *Rip Van Winkle*

*Rip Van Winkle* is one of Washington Irving's best known stories, being included in *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent*, a collection of sketches and stories. Published in 1819, the tale fully displayed Irving's special talent for creating a magical, fairytale quality, and thus helped shape the folklore of early America. In the story, a farmer named Rip Van Winkle, in order to avoid his wife's non-stop nagging at home, sought refuge in the mountain where he met several dwarfs and tasted the liquor made by them out of curiosity. Overwhelmed by the magic of the liquor, he fell into a 20-year sleep. When he woke up, everything had undergone a tremendous change. Could he find his family? How could he react to a totally different world? Please read the following story and find out your answer.

#### Pre-reading questions:

(1) Have you ever heard a Japanese legend about a fisherman who rescued a turtle and was rewarded with a three-day visit to the undersea palace and found himself 300 years in the future when he returned to his village? Share the story with your classmates.



(2) If you fell asleep today and woke up 20 years from now, what questions would you ask the first person you saw?



### V. An excerpt from *Rip Van Winkle*

Whoever has made a **voyage** up the **Hudson** must remember the **Kaatskill mountains**. They are a **dismembered** branch of the great **Appalachian family**, and are seen away to the west of the river, **swelling up** to a noble height, and **lording it over** the surrounding country. Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day, produces some change in the magical **hues** and shapes of these mountains, and they are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect **barometers**. When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their bold outlines on the clear evening sky; but, sometimes, when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather a **hood** of gray **vapors** about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory.

At the foot of these fairy mountains, the voyager may have **descried** the light smoke **curling** up from a village, whose **shingle-roofs** gleam among the trees, just where the blue **tints** of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape. It is a little village, of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists; in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of the government of the good **Peter Stuyvesant**, (may he rest in peace!) and there were some of the houses of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of small yellow bricks brought from Holland, having **latticed** windows and **gable** fronts, **surmounted** with **weather-cocks**.

In that same village, and in one of these very houses (which, to tell the precise truth, was sadly time-worn and

注释:

voyage: 旅程, 旅行

Hudson: 哈德逊河

Kaatskill mountains: 卡兹  
吉尔山脉, 位于纽约东  
南部

dismember: 肢解, 分解

Appalachian family: 阿帕  
拉契亚山脉

swell up: 膨胀, 隆起

lord over: 盘踞

hue: 色彩

barometer: 晴雨表

hood: 头巾, 兜帽

vapor: 水汽, 水蒸气

descry: 远远看到, 发现

curl: 卷曲, 盘旋

shingle-roof: 鹅卵石的屋  
顶

tint: 色彩

Peter Stuyvesant: 荷兰新  
荷兰省最后一任长官,  
1655 年在克里斯蒂娜  
要塞打败了瑞典殖民  
者

lattice: 格子的, 格状的

gable: 三角墙

surmount: 登上最高点

weather-cock: 风向标



weather-beaten), there lived many years since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, a simple good-natured fellow, of the name of Rip Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so **gallantly** in the **chivalrous** days of Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the **siege of Fort Christina**. He inherited, however, but little of the martial character of his ancestors. I have observed that he was a simple good-natured man; he was, moreover, a kind neighbor, and an obedient **hen-pecked** husband. Indeed, to the latter circumstance might be owing that **meekness** of spirit which gained him such universal popularity; for those men are most apt to be **obsequious** and **conciliating** abroad, who are under the discipline of **shrews** at home. Their tempers, doubtless, are rendered **pliant** and **malleable** in the fiery furnace of domestic **tribulation**; and a **curtain lecture** is worth all the sermons in the world for teaching the virtues of patience and long-suffering. A **termagant** wife may, therefore, in some respects, be considered a tolerable blessing; and if so, Rip Van Winkle was thrice blessed.

Certain it is, that he was a great favorite among all the good wives of the village, who, as usual, with the **amiable** sex, took his part in all family **squabbles**; and never failed, whenever they talked those matters over in their evening gossipings, to lay all the blame on Dame Van Winkle. The children of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. He assisted at their sports, made their playthings, taught them to fly kites and shoot **marbles**, and told them long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever he went **dodging** about the village, he was surrounded by a troop of them, hanging on his skirts, clambering on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with **impunity**; and not a dog would bark at him throughout the neighborhood.

gallantly: 大胆地, 勇敢地  
chivalrous: 骑士的  
siege of Fort Christina: 克  
里斯蒂娜要塞包围战

hen-pecked: 妻管严  
meekness: 温和, 柔顺

obsequious: 顺从的  
conciliate: 安抚, 驯服  
shrew: 悍妇  
pliant: 柔顺的, 易弯曲的  
malleable: 柔韧的, 易改  
编的, 可塑的  
tribulation: 苦难, 灾难  
curtain lecture: 枕边训话  
termagant: 蛮横的, 暴躁  
的

amiable: 好脾气的, 亲切  
的  
squabble: 争吵

marble: 弹子 (游戏)  
dodge: 闪开, 避开

impunity: 不受惩罚或伤害



The great error in Rip's **composition** was an insuperable **aversion** to all kinds of profitable labor. It could not be from the want of **assiduity** or perseverance; for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a **Tartar's lance**, and **fish** all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged by a single **nibble**. He would carry a **fowling-piece** on his shoulder for hours together, trudging through woods and **swamps**, and up hill and down dale, to shoot a few **squirrels** or wild pigeons. He would never refuse to assist a neighbor even in the roughest **toil**, and was a foremost man at all country **frolics** for husking Indian corn, or building stone-fences; the women of the village, too, used to employ him to run their **errands**, and to do such little **odd jobs** as their less **obliging** husbands would not do for them. In a word Rip was ready to attend to anybody's business but his own; but as to doing family duty, and keeping his farm in order, he found it impossible.

In fact, he declared it was of no use to work on his farm; it was the most **pestilent** little piece of ground in the whole country; every thing about it went wrong, and would go wrong, in spite of him. His fences were continually falling to pieces; his cow would either **go astray**, or get among the cabbages; weeds were sure to grow quicker in his fields than anywhere else; the rain always made a point of setting in just as he had some out-door work to do; so that though his **patrimonial** estate had **dwindled** away under his management, acre by acre, until there was little more left than a mere patch of Indian corn and potatoes, yet it was the worst conditioned farm in the neighborhood.

His children, too, were as **ragged** and wild as if they belonged to nobody. His son Rip, an **urchin** begotten in his own likeness, promised to inherit the

composition: 性格  
aversion: 厌恶, 反感  
assiduity: 勤勉, 一丝不苟

Tartar's lance: 鞑靼人的  
长矛

fish: 闲逛

nibble: (鱼) 咬钩

fowling-piece: 猎(鸟)枪

swamp: 沼泽

squirrel: 松鼠

toil: 报酬很低的苦活

frolic: 嬉戏, 庆祝聚会

errand: 差使, 跑腿

odd job: 零工, 零活儿

obliging: 乐于助人的

pestilent: 害病的, 糟糕的

go astray: 走失, 迷路

patrimonial: 祖传的

dwindle: 减少

ragged: 衣衫褴褛的

urchin: 顽童



habits, with the old clothes of his father. He was generally seen trooping like a **colt** at his mother's heels, equipped in a pair of his father's cast-off **galligaskins**, which he had much **ado** to hold up with one hand, as a fine lady does her **train** in bad weather.

Rip Van Winkle, however, was one of those happy **mortals**, of foolish, **well-oiled** dispositions, who take the world easy, eat white bread or brown, whichever can be got with least thought or trouble, and would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. If left to himself, he would have whistled life away in perfect contentment; but his wife kept continually **din**ning in his ears about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family. Morning, noon, and night, her tongue was incessantly going, and every thing he said or did was sure to produce a **torrent** of household **eloquence**. Rip had but one way of replying to all lectures of the kind, and that, by frequent use, had grown into a habit. He **shrugged** his shoulders, shook his head, cast up his eyes, but said nothing. This, however, always **provoked** a fresh **volley** from his wife; so that he was fain to draw off his forces, and take to the outside of the house—the only side which, in truth, belongs to a hen-pecked husband.

Rip's sole domestic **adherent** was his dog Wolf, who was as much hen-pecked as his master; for Dame Van Winkle regarded them as companions in idleness, and even looked upon Wolf with an evil eye, as the cause of his master's going so often astray. True it is, in all points of spirit **befitting** an honorable dog, he was as courageous an animal as ever scoured the woods—but what courage can withstand the **ever-during** and **all-besetting** terrors of a woman's tongue? The moment Wolf entered the house his crest fell, his tail dropped to the ground, or curled between his legs, he **sneaked** about

colt: 小雄马

galligaskins: 灯笼裤

ado: 麻烦, 忙乱

train: 长裙拖地的部分

mortal: 人类

well-oiled: 受人喜欢的,  
左右逢源的

din: 絮聒不休地说, 喧闹

torrent: 激流, 爆发

eloquence: 雄辩, 口才

shrug: 耸肩

provoke: 激起, 挑衅

volley: (子弹) 齐发, 齐  
射

adherent: 支持者, 知己

befit: 适宜, 合适

ever-during: 持久的

all-besetting: 咄咄逼人

sneak: 鬼鬼祟祟地走



with a **gallows** air, casting many a sidelong glance at Dame Van Winkle, and at the least **flourish** of a broomstick or ladle, he would run to the door with **yelping precipitation**.

Times grew worse and worse with Rip Van Winkle as years of **matrimony** rolled on; a **tart** temper never **mellows** with age, and a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows **keener** with constant use. For a long while he used to console himself, when driven from home, by frequenting a kind of perpetual club of the sages, philosophers, and other idle personages of the village which held its sessions on a bench before a small inn, **designated** by a **rubicund** portrait of **His Majesty George the Third**. Here they used to sit in the shade through a long lazy summer's day, talking listlessly over village gossip, or telling endless sleepy stories about nothing. But it would have been worth any statesman's money to have heard the profound discussions that sometimes took place, when by chance an old newspaper fell into their hands from some passing traveller. How solemnly they would listen to the contents, as **drawled** out by Derrick Van Bummel, the schoolmaster, a **dapper** learned little man, who was not to be daunted by the most gigantic word in the dictionary; and how **sagely** they would **deliberate** upon public events some months after they had taken place.

The opinions of this **junto** were completely controlled by Nicholas Vedder, a **patriarch** of the village, and landlord of the inn, at the door of which he took his seat from morning till night, just moving sufficiently to avoid the sun and keep in the shade of a large tree; so that the neighbors could tell the hour by his movements as accurately as by a **sun-dial**. It is true he was rarely heard to speak, but smoked his pipe incessantly. His adherents, however (for every great man has his

gallows: 绞刑架  
flourish: 挥动, 举起的动作  
yelp: 犬吠, 哀嚎  
precipitation: 仓促  
matrimony: 婚后生活  
tart: 凶悍, 尖刻  
mellow: 柔和, 醇熟  
keen: 锋利的

designate: 标明, 标志  
rubicund: 脸色红润的  
His Majesty George the Third: 乔治三世国王陛下

drawl: 拖长腔调慢吞吞地说  
dapper: 衣冠楚楚, 短小精悍的  
sagely: 贤明地  
deliberate: 仔细考虑, 研讨  
junto: 小团体  
patriarch: 族长

sun-dial: 日晷



adherents), perfectly understood him, and knew how to gather his opinions. When any thing that was read or related displeased him, he was observed to smoke his pipe **vehemently**; and to send forth short, frequent and angry puffs; but when pleased, he would **inhale** the smoke slowly and **tranquilly**, and **emit** it in light and placid clouds; and sometimes, taking the pipe from his mouth, and letting the **fragrant vapor** curl about his nose, would gravely nod his head in token of perfect **approbation**.

From even this **stronghold** the unlucky Rip was at length routed by his termagant wife, who would suddenly break in upon the tranquility of the assemblage and **call** the members **all to naught**; nor was that **august** personage, Nicholas Vedder himself, sacred from the daring tongue of this terrible **virago**, who charged him outright with encouraging her husband in habits of idleness.

Poor Rip was at last reduced almost to despair; and his only alternative, to escape from the labor of the farm and **clamor** of his wife, was to take gun in hand and stroll away into the woods. Here he would sometimes seat himself at the foot of a tree, and share the contents of his wallet with Wolf, with whom he sympathized as a fellow-sufferer in **persecution**. "Poor Wolf," he would say, "thy mistress leads thee a dog's life of it; but never mind, my lad, whilst I live thou shalt never want a friend to stand by thee!" Wolf would wag his tail, look **wistfully** in his master's face, and if dogs can feel pity I verily believe he **reciprocated** the sentiment with all his heart.

In a long **ramble** of the kind on a fine autumnal day, Rip had unconsciously **scrambled** to one of the highest parts of the Kaatskill mountains. He was after his favorite sport of squirrel shooting, and the still **solitudes**

vehemently: 剧烈地

inhale: 吸入

tranquilly: 安静地, 平静地

emit: 吐出

fragrant vapor: 芳香的烟气

approbation: 认可, 赞许

stronghold: 要塞, 堡垒

call...all to naught: 叫……滚蛋, 命令……消失

august: 威严, 尊严

virago: 泼妇, 悍妇

clamor: 喧哗, 吵闹

persecution: 迫害

wistfully: 忧愁地

reciprocate: 回报

ramble: 漫游

scramble: 爬上, 登上

solitude: 孤独, 寂寞





had **echoed** and **reechoed** with the reports of his gun. Panting and fatigued, he threw himself, late in the afternoon, on a green **knoll**, covered with mountain **herbage**, that crowned the brow of a **precipice**. From an opening between the trees he could overlook all the lower country for many a mile of rich woodland. He saw at a distance the lordly Hudson, far, far below him, moving on its silent but **majestic** course, with the reflection of a purple cloud, or the sail of a lagging **bark**, here and there sleeping on its glassy bosom, and at last losing itself in the blue highlands.

On the other side he looked down into a deep mountain **glen**, wild, lonely, and **shagged**, the bottom filled with fragments from the impending cliffs, and scarcely lighted by the reflected rays of the setting sun. For some time Rip lay musing on this scene; evening was gradually advancing; the mountains began to throw their long blue shadows over the valleys; he saw that it would be dark long before he could reach the village, and he heaved a heavy sigh when he thought of encountering the terrors of Dame Van Winkle.

As he was about to descend, he heard a voice from a distance, **hallooing**, “Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!” He looked round, but could see nothing but a crow winging its solitary flight across the mountain. He thought his fancy must have deceived him, and turned again to descend, when he heard the same cry ring through the still evening air; “Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!”—at the same time Wolf **bristled** up his back, and giving a low **growl**, **skulked** to his master’s side, looking fearfully down into the glen. Rip now felt a vague **apprehension** stealing over him; he looked anxiously in the same direction, and perceived a strange figure slowly toiling up the rocks, and bending under the weight of something he carried on his back. He was

echo: 反射, 发出回声

reecho: 回响

knoll: 小圆丘

herbage: 草本

precipice: 断崖, 绝壁

majestic: 威严的, 庄严的

bark: 帆船, 轻舟

glen: 峡谷, 溪谷

shagged: 乱蓬蓬的

halloo: 高呼

bristle: 毛竖起来

growl: 怒吠, 咆哮

skulk: 潜行

apprehension: 忧惧