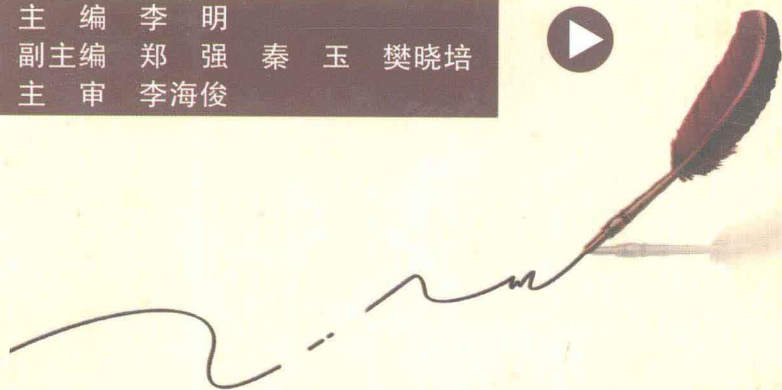


高等学校“十二五”规划教材

简明 美国文学 教程

A Concise Course of
American Literature

主 编 李 明
副主编 郑 强 秦 玉 樊晓培
主 审 李海俊



西安电子科技大学出版社
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内 容 简 介

“美国文学”是我国高等院校英语专业高年级的必修课程。本教程选取有代表性的 20 位美国作家的作品片段，在内容上力求文化内涵生动，在语言上力求清晰明快，从而使学生在饶有兴致的学习中加深对美国文学的了解和感悟。

本书共 20 课，每课内容基本包括四大部分：名人名言、作家简介、作品简介和经典片段选读。前三部分需要学生在课前阅读，课堂教学以经典片段选读为核心。重要单词在文中以底纹标出，每页下面有专门解释。教师可按具体教学课时对书中内容进行取舍。

书中相关经典选段音频资料，可在郑州大学西亚斯国际学院外语学院网站的子栏目“学习资料”中免费点击获取。

前 言

美国作家、教育家 Edith Hamilton(1867—1963)曾这样说过，“一个民族的文学作品，是了解该民族最好的教科书。岁月留下来的那些文字，展现了该民族的品质和素养，这是那些历史复原物所无法做到的。”显然，要学好英语，必须认真阅读一些英语文学作品，这样才有可能深入了解和掌握英语的特点，感悟其民族文化的精髓。

本书所选取的美国文学片段都来自于英语文学长河中的经典作品。惠特曼(Walt Whitman, 1819—1892)《草叶集》(*Leaves of Grass*)中的诗行，每每重读，让人心潮澎湃；罗伯特·弗罗斯特(Robert Frost, 1874—1963)《未选择的路》(*The Road Not Taken*)中的诗行，让人在平静中体味选择和坚持的重要；海明威(Ernest Hemingway, 1899—1961)《老人与海》(*The Old Man and The Sea*)中冷静的描述让人感悟什么才是真正的勇敢；朗费罗(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807—1882)《人生礼赞》(*A Psalm of Life*)中的诗行，用语大都是简明常用的词汇，却寓意深刻、发人深省，在美国家喻户晓；赛珍珠(Pearl S. Buck, 1892—1973)《圣诞节的早晨》(*Christmas Day in the Morning*)是一篇感人至深的关于爱的故事。这些经典使读者在乐读、好读的氛围中，品味美国文学的内涵及其民族文化的精神，在得到一些快乐、一些勇气、一些阳光的同时，也掌握了英语表达的特点，提高了英语学习的水平。

西亚斯国际学院英美文学专家李海俊教授对书稿提出了很多宝贵建议并进行了全面校订；西亚斯国际学院 Gary Todd 教授热诚帮助朗读经典选段；中国海洋大学 Andrea Jordan 女士对本书结构和选材提出了很多中肯的意见。编者向他们谨致衷心的感谢。西

亚斯国际学院外语学院和商学院的部分学生，也提出了一些颇有价值的建议，笔者深表谢意。

本书能如期出版，得到了西安电子科技大学出版社戚文艳女士的大力支持和帮助。

本书由李明担任主编，郑强、秦玉、樊晓培担任副主编。具体编写分工为：李明负责第一到第九课，郑强、秦玉负责第十到第十九课，樊晓培负责第二十课。

由于编者水平有限，书中难免存在不当之处，敬请专家及读者批评指正。

李明

2013年5月18日

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Lesson One

An Introduction to American Literature

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

— **Benjamin Franklin** (1706–1790)

Warming-up Qs:

1. Who are the natives of America? And where are they from?
2. Can you say something about Christopher Columbus?
3. How does the **continent** get its name America?
4. What happened in 1588 in English history?
5. Do you know the story of the ship named the Mayflower?
6. Which two states are the earliest ones among the thirteen colonies?

literature ['lɪtərətʃə] *n.* 文学; 文献; 文艺; 著作

healthy ['helθɪ] *adj.* 健康的, 健全的; 有益于健康的

wealthy ['welθɪ] *adj.* 富有的; 充分的; 丰裕的

continent ['kɒntɪnənt] *n.* 大陆, 洲, 陆地

colony ['kɒləni] *n.* 殖民地; 移民队

◇ I . The Making of the United States

1. The early inhabitants

About 10,000-40,000 years ago, a **tribe** in Asia came to the continent. The **natives** were called “American Indians”.

In the 11th century, an explorer from Norway came to the new land. He was Leif Ericsson, and today he was regarded as the first European to America.



2. Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

Christopher Columbus is believed to be the discoverer of America. He was an Italian. In 1492, he won the support of the Spanish queen and sailed west from Spain in search of a sea route to India. Altogether he went there four times. He believed he had reached India, so he called the natives Indians.

3. Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512)

Following Columbus's steps, Amerigo Vespucci, another sailor

inhabitant [ɪn'hæbɪtənt] *n.* 居民; 居住者

tribe [traɪb] *n.* 部落; 宗族

native ['neɪtɪv] *adj.* 本国的; 土著的 *n.* 本地人; 土产

flying the Spanish flag, proved that the land **discovered** by Columbus was not India, but a new continent. As a result, the new continent was named after him and became known as America. It was called the New World, while Europe became known as the Old World.

4. Settlers in the New World

In the late 16th century, a lot of explorers from different European countries came to the new land, settling in different parts. The earliest settlers included Dutch, Swedes, Germans (in New York), French, Spaniards and Portuguese.

5. The major event in 1588

In 1588, when Elizabeth was Queen, the English navy **destroyed** the Spanish Armada and controlled some of the sea routes leading to the New World. This marked a turning point in the course of American history, for the English immigrants started to replace the Spaniards as the most important colonists in North America. This led to the **establishment** of the thirteen English American colonies.

6. The first English colony—Jamestown, Virginia

When Elizabeth First died in 1603, James First **succeeded** her. He also encouraged **foreign expansions**. In 1607, the Virginia Company sent one hundred and five men to America. The tiny band finally

discover [dɪ'skʌvə] *vt.* 发现; 发觉

destroy [dɪ'strɔɪ] *vt.* 破坏; 消灭

establishment [ɪ'stæblɪʃmənt] *n.* 确立, 制定

succeed [sək'sɪd] *vi.* 成功; 继承

foreign ['fɒrɪn] *adj.* 外国的; 外交的

expansion [ɪk'spænjən] *n.* 膨胀; 扩张

landed on the banks of the James River in present day Virginia, which later became known as the mother state. In **honor** of their king, the first place they reached was called Jamestown.

7. The Mayflower—Massachusetts, the second colony

In September of 1620, a group of one hundred and two Puritans left Plymouth, England, and sailed for America in the ship named the Mayflower. The **voyage** took sixty five days, during which two people died and two boys were born. The Puritans **suffered** terrible hardships during the first winter and half of them died. With the help of the native Indians, they started to **cultivate** crops and the next summer they **reaped** a good **harvest** on the last Thursday in November of 1621, they **celebrated** their first Thanksgiving Day with a feast to thank God for His **protection**. The **anniversary** of this thanksgiving feast has been **observed** as one of the two great **occasions** in America, the other

honor ['anə] *n.* 荣誉; 头衔 *vt.* 尊敬; 给...以荣誉

voyage ['vɔɪdʒ] *n. v.* 旅行, 航海, 远行; 旅程

suffer ['sʌfə] *vt.* 遭受; 经历

cultivate ['kʌltɪvet] *vt.* 培养; 陶冶

reap [ri:p] *vt.* 收获, 得到, 获利

harvest ['hɑ:vɪst] *n. vt.* 收获, 收割

celebrate ['selə,bret] *n. vt.* 庆祝, 歌颂, 赞扬

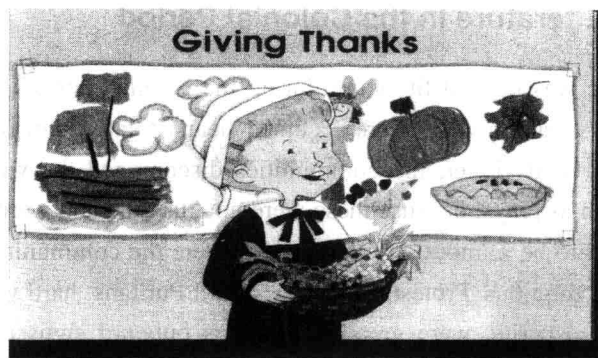
protection [prə'tekʃən] *n.* 保护; 防卫

anniversary [ænɪ'vɜ:səri] *n.* 周年纪念日

observe [əb'zɜ:v] *vt.* 观察; 遵守; 注意到

occasion [ə'keɪʒn] *n.* 时机, 机会; 场合

one being the **Independence** Day, to mark the two main stages in American history.



The Puritans **founded** their first settlement, which was named Plymouth. It was present day Massachusetts. Soon they built another town and named it Boston, because most of them once were kept in prison cells in Boston, England.

Unlike the first colonists at Jamestown, these new comers had come to America to seek freedom of religion. They had been known as Puritans because of their strong desire to “purify” the church of England—to **simplify** its form of **worship** and reform its **organization**. Their **belief** brought them much trouble in England, so they decided

independence [ɪndɪˈpendəns] *n.* 独立, 自主

found [faʊnd] *vt.* 创立, 创办

simplify [ˈsɪmplɪfaɪ] *vt.* 简化; 使单纯

worship [ˈwɜːʃɪp] *n. vt.* 崇拜; 尊敬

organization [ˌɔrgənəˈzeɪʃən] *n.* 组织; 机构; 团体

belief [brɪˈlɪf] *n.* 相信, 信赖; 信仰; 教义

to immigrate into the **territory** of the Virginia Company in America.

◇ II. Literature in the Colonial Period

There was no real literature during the colonial period. At first, the settler's waking hours were **occupied** nearly totally with **efforts** to **ensure survival**. Later, the communities discouraged the writing of works such as plays, because these were not “useful” and were widely considered to be **immoral**. In the North, where the communities were run by the **religious** Protestants generally called Puritans, hard work and material **prosperity** were greatly valued as outward signs of God's grace. Making money was also important, for other reasons, to the merchants of the growing cities of New York and Philadelphia and to the farmers of large tracts of land in the southern colonies.

The Puritans believed that God decided everything before things **occurred**. Human beings were born to be evil, and this **original** sin can be passed down from generation to generation. Only the “elect”

territory ['terɪtəri] *n.* 领土, 领域; 范围

occupy ['ʌkjə,paɪ] *vt.* 占据, 占领; 居住; 使忙碌

effort ['efət] *n.* 努力; 成就

ensure [ɪn'ʃʊr] *vt.* 保证, 确保

survival [sə'vaɪvl] *n.* 幸存, 残存

immoral [ɪ'mɔrəl] *adj.* 不道德的; 邪恶的

religious [rɪ'lɪdʒəs] *adj.* 宗教的; 虔诚的; 严谨的

prosperity [prə'sperəti] *n.* 繁荣, 成功

occur [ə'kɜː] *vi.* 发生; 出现; 存在

original [ə'rɪdʒənəl] *adj.* 原始的; 最初的; 独创的; 新颖的

can be saved.

A group of good qualities – hard work, thrift, and piety, sobriety (serious and thoughtful) influenced American literature. It led to the everlasting myth. All literature is based on a myth – Garden of Eden. The American puritan's metaphorical mode of perception was chiefly instrumental in calling into being a literary symbolism which is distinctly American. With regard to their writing, the style is fresh, simple and direct; the rhetoric is plain and honest, not without a touch of nobility often traceable to the direct influence of the Bible.

◇ III. A Brief Introduction to American Literature

1. Purpose

- ① To enlarge knowledge of literature.
- ② To cultivate the ability to appreciate literature.

2. The History of American Literature

1) Age of Romanticism (1820–1865)

(1) Early Romantic Period (1820–1850)

- ① Novelists:

Washington Irving—the first American writer who won an international fame.

enlarge [ɪnˈlɑːdʒ] *vi. vt.* 扩大; 使增大

appreciate [əˈpriːʃiət] *vt.* 欣赏; 感激; 鉴别

period [ˈpiəriəd] *n.* 周期, 期间; 时期

international [ˌɪntəˈnæʃənəl] *adj.* 国际的; 世界的

fame [feɪm] *n.* 名声, 名望

James Cooper—a writer of frontier sagas.

② Poets:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—the only American to be honored with a **bust** in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. William Bryant—the first Native American lyric poet to gain world wide fame.

(2) **Late Romantic Period (1850–1865)** also “**New England Renaissance**”

① **Novelists**.

Nathaniel Hawthorne—the master of symbolism.

Herman Melville—*Moby Dick*.

② Poets:

Walt Whitman—The master of free verse.

Emily Dickinson—The most important woman poet in the 19th century.

Edgar Allan Poe—The master of symbolism, father of **detective** stories.

③ Transcendentalists:

Ralph Waldo Emerson—*The American Scholar*.

Henry David Thoreau—*Walden*.

2) Age of Realism (1865–1914)

① Three **giants** of American Realism—Mark Twain, Henry

bust [bʌst] *n.* 半身雕像

renaissance [rɪˈneɪsəns] *n.* 新生; 再生; 复活, 复兴

novelist ['nɒvəlɪst] *n.* 小说家

detective [dɪˈtɛktɪv] *adj.* 侦探的 *n.* 侦探

scholar ['skɒlə] *n.* 学者; 奖学金获得者

giant ['dʒaɪənt] *n. adj.* 巨人, 巨物, 巨兽, 卓越人物

* James, W. D. Howells.

② Novelists—O. Henry, Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser, Jack London.

3) Age of Modernism (1914–1945)

① Poets:

Robert Frost—The most beloved nature poet in the 20th century.

Ezra Pound—The master of imagism.

T. S. Eliot—The winner of Nobel Prize for Literature in 1948.

Carl Sandburg—the winner of Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

② Novelists:

F. S. Fitzgerald—*The Great Gatsby*.

Ernest Hemingway—The winner of Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

3. Winners of Nobel Prize for Literature

Sinclair Lewis 1930 *Babbitt*

Eugene O'Neill 1936 *The Hairy Ape, Long Days Journey into Night*

Pearl S. Buck 1938 *The Earth, Christmas Day in the Morning*

T. S. Eliot 1948 *The Love Song of J. A. Prufrock*

William Faulkner 1950 *The Sound and The Fury*

Ernest Hemingway 1954 *The Old Man and the Sea*

John Steinbeck 1962 *Of Mice and Men*

nature ['neɪtʃə] *n.* 自然; 本性

prize [praɪz] *n.* 奖品; 奖赏; 战利品

poetry ['pɒətri] *n.* 诗; 诗意; 诗歌艺术

journey ['dʒɜ:nɪ] *n. vi.* 行程, 旅行

Saul Bellow 1976 *A Father-to-Be*

Isaac Bashevis Singer 1978 *The Magician of Dublin, The Spinoza of Market Street, A Friend of Kafka*

Joseph Brodsky 1987 *From Petersburg to Stockholm*

Toni Morrison 1993 *The Bluest Eye, Sula, Song of Solomon*

Qs:

1. Say something about the ship the Mayflower.
2. What are the features of Puritanism?