Revised 5/2008

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ENG 241 – SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE I (3 CR.)

Course Description
Examines American literary works from the pre-colonial period to the mid-19th century, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of our national literature. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose
ENG 241 will present students the ideas, themes, and characteristics of American literature from the pre-colonial period to the mid-19th century to help them develop an awareness of the historical, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic contexts that shaped American culture.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites
ENG 112 or ENG 125 or equivalent course or division approval.

Course Objectives
GOAL ONE: Analysis and Appreciation of Literature
ENG 241 students will improve their ability to analyze literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- demonstrate critical reading, thinking, and writing skills by analyzing a variety of American literary genres;
- identify content, structure, and style in literary texts;
- use literary terminology to analyze works of literature;
- recognize the value inherent in literary art forms and the powerful impact they may have on audiences.

GOAL TWO: Relevance of Literature to Culture
ENG 241 will demonstrate the connections between a culture and the literature it produces. By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- identify and analyze the connections between the literature and American history and philosophical and religious movements;
- recognize the contribution of the literature to the development of contemporary culture.

GOAL THREE: Characteristics of American Literature
ENG 241 will introduce students to the specific forms and conventions of American literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- define and provide examples of the literary characteristics of works by American authors from the pre-colonial period to the mid-nineteenth century;
- discuss some recurring themes of American literature (e.g., the meaning and purpose of life, the role of the individual in society, race, war, the family, values and mores, individualism, nature, and the role of the writer.)

Major Topics to be Included
Colonial Period Literature
Enlightenment and Neoclassicism
Romanticism
Transcendentalism
American Poetry
American Short Story