Teaching Nineteenth-Century American Poetry (Options for Teaching)

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Role
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Description/Summary

Book description: Twentieth-century modernism reduced the list of nineteenth-century American poets to Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and (less often) Edgar Allan Poe. The rest were virtually forgotten.

This volume in the MLA series Options for Teaching marks a milestone in the resurgence of the study of the rest. It features poets, like Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Lydia Huntley Sigourney, who were famous in their day, as well as poets who were marginalized on the basis of their race (Paul Laurence Dunbar, Alexander Posey) or their sociopolitical agenda (Emma Lazarus, John Greenleaf Whittier). It also takes a fresh look at poets whose work has been dismissed as sentimental (Frances Osgood), genteel (Oliver Wendell Holmes), or didactic (William Cullen Bryant). The volume’s twenty-two essays are grouped into parts: “Teaching Various Kinds of Poems,” “Teaching Poets in Context,” and “Strategies for Teaching.” The fourth part is a selective guide to the field: an annotated bibliography of editions, anthologies, reference books, biographies, critical studies, and Web resources.

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Comments
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Recommended Citation
Methods used in teaching literature in a high school (Lawrence High School, Kansas) senior English course are described briefly. The first semester of the course in English literature is taught as a survey course, which is presented chronologically; thus the students' first experience with 19th century poetry is with the Romantics. It appears that there is some value in teaching some of the really bad poems of the writers of this period (Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelly, and Keats), as this seems to increase the students' empathy with the poets. One of the most effective techniques for teaching poetry is said to be that of comparison and contrast. Recent papers in Nineteenth Century American Poetry. People. Prospects for the Study of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. | Though a major figure in American cultural history, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was relatively neglected by literary scholars until the past twenty years. Recent scholarship emphasizes Longfellow's cosmopolitan and transnational vision, more. Options The option modules allow for more specialised study of particular issues relevant to the study of nineteenth-century literature and its historical, social and political contexts. A distinctive feature of this MA is the flexibility it provides for a student to specialize within the Victorian period or to explore a range of research interests across the nineteenth century, including interdisciplinary options from departments including History and History of Art. Available option modules may include: * Rebels, Riots and Religion in the 1840s * Poetry and the Visual Arts * Strangers to Our From my experience in teaching English and American culture and literature to Romanian students, the students' interest in literature increases when approached as a mirror held up to the cultural context from which it emerged. My field focuses on American urbanism studied in poetry and the paper presents the teaching means used to elicit the students' interest in culture and poetry and to help them identify references to urbanism in American poetry by using various, interactive activities. (C) 2012 Published by Elsevier Ltd. Selection and/or peer-review under responsibility of ALSC 2... Teaching culture through 20. th. century American poetry, Mihai Cosoveanu. * University of Craiova, 13 Al Cuza, Craiova 200585, Romania. The literary nineteenth century is commonly divided into periods or phases, more or less arbitrarily. There was clearly a Romantic period in England from about 1786 to 1832, followed by a more sedate Victorian reaction that itself began to disintegrate after 1860. American literature remained minor and derivative until about 1820, when William Cullen Bryant emerged. During the last third of the nineteenth century, British and American literature were widely separate, and the uniqueness of American writers was generally acknowledged. Nevertheless, the two literatures were deeply interdependent at the beginning of the century, with Britain’s dominating, as the young United States of America were less united than a collection of states with strong ties to Britain and the Continent.