

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD
(Department of English)

WARNING

- 1. PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/ CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
- 2. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY."**

Please read the following instructions for writing your assignments. (AD, BS, B.Ed., MA/MSc, MEd) (ODL Mode).

1. All questions are compulsory and carry equal marks but within a question the marks are distributed according to its requirements.
2. Read the question carefully and then answer it according to the requirements of the questions.
3. Avoid irrelevant discussion/information and reproducing from books, study guide or allied material.
4. Handwritten / scanned assignments are not acceptable.
5. Upload your typed (in Word or PDF format) assignments on or before the due date.
6. Your own analysis and synthesis will be appreciated.
7. Late assignments can't be uploaded at LMS.

Course: American Literature
Course Code: ENGL-6008

Semester: Spring 2026
Total Marks: 100
Pass Marks: 50

ASSIGNMENT NO.1
(UNITS 1-5)

- Q. 1** Many modernist stories in American Literature highlight problems in relationships, e.g. between people, between a person and themselves, between a person and society, or between a person and nature. How do one or two characters from the American short stories you've read reveal this kinds of conflicts?" 20
- Q. 2** What meaning does Emily Dickinson want to convey through her poem "I Like to See It Lap the Miles—" and how does she get her desired message across to the reader? 20

- Q.3** Undertake an in-depth critical examination of the following poem by Emily Dickinson, exploring the interplay of form, language, imagery, and theme, while situating the poem within Dickinson’s broader poetic vision. 20

I heard a Fly buzz - when I died - (591)

I heard a Fly buzz - when I died –
 The Stillness in the Room
 Was like the Stillness in the Air –
 Between the Heaves of Storm –

The Eyes around –
 had wrung them dry –
 And Breaths were gathering firm
 For that last Onset –
 when the King Be witnessed - in the Room -

I willed my Keepsakes –
 Signed away
 What portion of me be Assignable –
 and then it was There interposed a Fly –

With Blue – uncertain - stumbling Buzz –
 Between the light - and me -
 And then the Windows failed –
 and then I could not see to see –

- Q. 4** Answer the following questions about "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorn. 20

i.	What is the result of Hester and Dimmesdale's unholy relationship?
ii.	Other than Dimmesdale, who had sinned more?
iii	Who performs the role of a Customs Inspector?
iv	Whose puritanical upbringing causes him to feel bad about his literary career.
v.	How does "The Scarlet Letter" apply the dark romanticism subgenre?

Q. 5 A. Discuss the dominant thematic preoccupations in Robert Frost’s poetry, considering the ways in which his verse negotiates the tensions between the individual and society, humanity and nature, certainty and ambiguity.

B. Our choices in life play a critical role in shaping our future? Discuss with reference to any of Frost’s poems, which undertakes to discuss this theme.

10+10

ASSIGNMENT NO.2

(UNITS 6-9)

Total marks: 100

Pass marks: 50

Q. 1 ‘Beauty of nature’, ‘the dignity of labor’ and the ‘grandeur of human spirit’ are some of the key themes in Walt Whitman’s poetry. Explain these themes with the reference to Whitman’s poetry. 20

Q.2 Discuss the following as American Prose writers: 20

- i. Elisa Leslie
- ii. Alice Walker

Q.3 A. Explain the various historical influences on the American Short Story writers.

B. Elaborate, through textual examples, Edgar Allen Poe’s art of short story writing 10+10

Q.4 How does social class system of the American society in the early 20th Century influence the development of the novel, “The Great Gatsby”? 20

Q. 5 Describe in detail Fitzgerald’s art of characterization as used in “The Great Gatsby”. 20