

LITERARY SURVEY · SIXTEEN SESSIONS

Survey of American Literature

From Indigenous voices and Puritan sermons to contemporary writing

An unhurried journey through four centuries of American literature. Reading together, in the room, at a human pace. Native American oral traditions, Puritan writers, the American Enlightenment, the Romantic and Transcendentalist movements, the abolitionists, the Civil War generation, the Realists and Naturalists, the Modernists, the Harlem Renaissance, and the writers working today. Discussion-based; no papers, no grades, no prerequisites.

SIX REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Bradstreet, Wheatley, and the Puritan lyric
2. Emerson and Thoreau: American self-reliance
3. Whitman: barbaric yawp and democratic vista
4. Frederick Douglass and the American voice
5. The Harlem Renaissance: Hughes, Hurston, Toomer
6. Contemporary American voices: Ocean Vuong, Jesmyn Ward

FORMATS · ALL CAN BE ADAPTED TO YOUR CALENDAR

- Full series:** Sixteen weekly sessions of 90 minutes
- Workshop:** Four to eight sessions, shaped to the venue's calendar
- Single talk:** One 60–90 minute lecture on a chosen theme
- Delivery:** In person, on Zoom, or hybrid

INSTRUCTOR · JAMES F. MULHERN

Kirkus-starred novelist · Oxford Writing Fellow · Professor Emeritus of English

Give Them Unquiet Dreams — Kirkus Best Book of 2019. Pushcart Prize nomination. Founder, Silver Current Press.

TO BOOK OR ASK QUESTIONS

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