



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: A SURVEY OF US-AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY

Session 02: Early Colonial and Puritan Literature

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Aims of the course:

- introduce you to examples of US-American literature
- help you interpret examples of US-American literature

Problem:

- What exactly does *American* mean here?
- What exactly does *literature* mean here?

CHALLENGE 1: HOW CAN WE DEFINE “LITERATURE”?

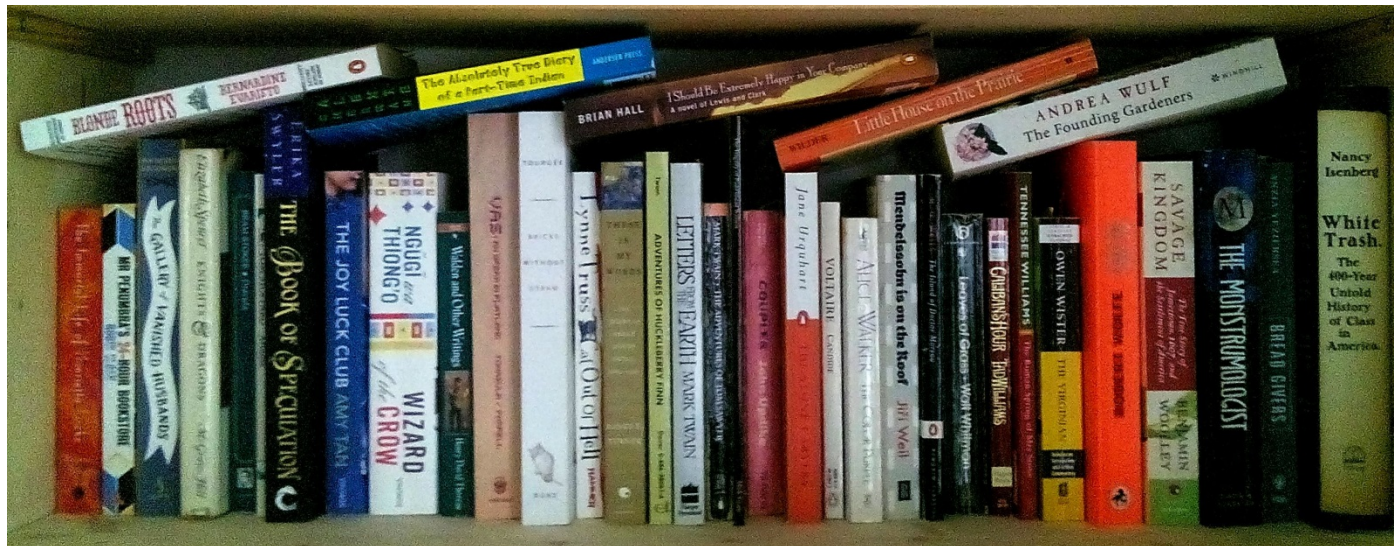
Important: There is *no all-encompassing* definition!

Most basic classifications:

- Literature is **a form of expression** of either individual creativity or critical imagination in a certain language.
- Literary texts appear in a **variety of media**: print, handwriting, speaking, singing, or even film.
- Literary texts can be categorized according to their **genre**, defined either by a particular form, style or purpose.

WHAT IS THE LITERARY CANON?

“set of literary works that experts and historians view as being important in furthering education and understanding” (Meyers 84)



*Sorry,
the rest of the presentation is only available
to the participants of the course...*