

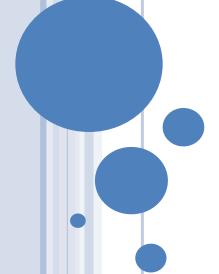






A SURVEY OF US-AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY

**Session 01: How to Do Literary Studies** 



## DEFINITION(S) OF LITERATURE

- vary from entertainment to conveying knowledge to discussing cultural values
- usually refers to a set of texts which tell stories or express thoughts through either narrative, performative or lyrical reflection
- <u>Important:</u> the way the literary text is written the literary technique – is <u>as much</u> part of the product as the content!

## **Literary Products:**

- > variety can be included in the definition of literature
- may also be included: movies or television series
- > BUT: term often refers to written texts like novels or poems

## LITERARY STUDIES

- text: product made of language, which responds to some part of the world
- going beyond the subjectivity of one reader to uncover new insights about the meanings of texts
- use of collective rules and assumptions, as well as a shared vocabulary, to analyze and interpret texts:
  - In which way is a text written?
  - Why was the text written in that way?
  - What role could this play in communicating the message of said text?

## (1) GENRE

- categorization of texts according to common patterns and conventions
- allows us to identify typical and atypical characteristics
- can provide assistance in predicting common plot lines and characters
- most significant genres: drama poetry prose

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