

## DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Our department offers a variety of courses on American literature—American fiction, drama and poetry, especially of the nineteenth century onward—with the help of part-time instructors from the Faculty of Integrated Human Studies and from other universities. Lectures and seminars are basically conducted in Japanese (except those by American and other English native instructors), and although their subjects, focuses and approaches may differ, most of them put special emphasis on careful and analytic reading of texts themselves, which should be the basis for any critical treatment of literary works. Students, therefore, are expected to make extensive use of dictionaries, pay close attention to textual details, and think out each interpretive difficulty they encounter, while developing, through lectures and seminar discussions, their interest in and understanding of broader issues concerning American literature and culture. They

are also encouraged to cultivate their knowledge of English and other European literature, since the main body of classic American literature derives from Western literary tradition. Finally, students are to write their graduation theses in English, on subjects of their own choice; for which they should prepare themselves by acquiring sufficient English-writing skills—Academic Writing course is provided for this purpose—as well as by reading a wide range of literary and critical works to enrich their individual studies.

This department and that of English Language and Literature are closely connected, most of the courses being common to both departments which merge into one at the graduate school level.

アメリカ文学専修



L : Seminar classroom  
R : Common room