

ENGL S-187. Early American Bestsellers (CRN: 31645)

Grantland S. Rice PhD, Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, Department of Development, Harvard Law School

This course will explore the emergence of popular fiction in America before the Civil War. Focusing on the historical and sociological conditions that gave birth to such popular genres as the captivity narrative, the autobiography, the epistolary novel, the seduction plot, the literary sketch, the romance, and the exposé, this course will examine prose works from settlement to the Civil War. Special consideration will be given to issues of authorship, intellectual property, and copyright law. Authors covered will include Mary Rowlandson, Benjamin Franklin, Michel Guillaume Saint Jean de Cr coeur, Charles Brockden Brown, Hannah Foster, Susanna Rowson, Washington Irving, George Lippard, James Fenimore Cooper, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Wilson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville.