



## HTS 665 Emerson and the Transcendentalists (2 hr/3 ceu–Online Course)

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<b>Required Texts</b>	<i>Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement</i> , a lecture series by Professor Ashton Nichols, (The Teaching Company, <a href="http://www.teach12.com/ttcx/coursedesclong2.aspx?cid=2598">http://www.teach12.com/ttcx/coursedesclong2.aspx?cid=2598</a> ).
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Samples from online texts by major Transcendentalist writers, TBA.
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Stone, Howard and J.O Duke. <i>How to Think Theologically</i> , Second Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2006.

### Course Description

This distance-learning course offers a comprehensive look at the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who has been called both an American Shakespeare and the intellectual father of New Thought. Students will also explore the theological, political and literary works of A. Bronson Alcott and his daughter Louisa May their Alcott, William Ellery Channing, Moncure Conway, Emily Dickinson, Frederick Douglass, Margaret Fuller, Theodore Parker, Henry David Thoreau, and Walt Whitman. Special attention will be paid to works on Abolitionism, Women’s Rights, Eastern Religions and re-thinking Christian theology.

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the socio-political, cultural and theological contributions of Transcendentalism to modern life.
2. Synthesize research, readings and online discussions into an original study of some specific aspect of Transcendentalism and its connectedness to movements, which followed.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity and Certificate of Unity Ministry:

Foundational Knowledge: Demonstrate professional competency through the integration of knowledge and methodology in the areas of scripture, theology, historical studies, communication, pastoral studies, leadership and administration.

### Assignments:

Students will acquire and listen to an audio copy of the primary resource for this course, *Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement*, a lecture series by Professor Ashton Nichols distributed by The Teaching Company (<http://www.teach12.com/ttcx/coursedesclong2.aspx?cid=2598>). While reviewing the 24-part series lecture-by-lecture, students will post regular, in-depth comments in response to topics raised at discussion forums. Finally, as the major assignment for the course, students will write a 20-page paper, which synthesizes research, readings and online discussions into an original study of some specific aspect of 19th century Transcendentalism’s lingering influence on the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.