

READINESS PROFILE & COURSE EXPECTATIONS

AMERICAN LITERATURE 1-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION

American Literature 1-2 includes the study of the historical, cultural, and philosophical significance of famous American works from various literary movements. Examples of authors studied include Emerson, Hawthorne, Douglas, Twain, Fitzgerald, Hughes, Steinbeck, Salinger, Plath, Miller and Angelou. Students read and respond to numerous non-fiction texts as well, including literary criticism, essays, and articles. Student writing includes a narrative piece, the Defend/Challenge/Qualify on-demand essay, rhetorical précis, and continued practice of the literary analysis essay format. Speaking and listening skills are addressed through oral responses to texts and multimedia presentations. Students continue vocabulary development through the SAT vocabulary unit. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "B" or "G" requirement.

COURSE CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS/MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY

Unit	Purpose	Major Assessments**†
Preface to the course: Study of American Literary Movements	-Explore each American Literary Movement in detail (purpose, style, techniques, examples, etc.)	Group Presentation on one particular American Literary Movement
Unit 1: The Power of Words	-Examine diction, figurative language and tone -Writing: Definition essay	“Who Am I?” definition essay
Unit 2: What is a Rebel?	-Explore the topic of rebellion in American History -Writing: Defend/Challenge/Qualify essay	DCQ essay on Rebel/Rebellion
Unit 3: <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	-Investigate the Realism literary period; continue studying the power of words; examine satire -Writing: continue the Defend/Challenge/Qualify essay	Final Exam on the novel/Realism/satire DCQ essay (topic related to the novel)
Unit 4: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	-Analyze the Modernist literary period; explore secondary sources -Writing –Literary Analysis	Literary Analysis with Secondary Sources
Unit 5: Book Circles	-Student-directed analysis of a Post-Modernist American novel of their choice (from a short list); continue examining secondary sources; examine précis writing from non-fiction texts Writing – Literary Analysis; Précis	Literary Analysis with Secondary Sources (group) Précis
Conclusion to the course: Study of American Literary Movements	-Define the American experience across Literary Movements -Writing: continue Précis writing	Multi-Media Group Presentation Précis
SAT Vocabulary Study	Expand vocabulary using words/definitions from a variety of SAT vocabulary lists	Vocabulary Final Exam

* Only the major assessments are listed. Other class work, homework, quizzes, and tests will be assigned.

Please see syllabus for additional course rules and information

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† Assessments in bold type are Common Assessments.

STUDENT BACKGROUND

Recommendations for students entering American Literature:

- Literary analysis writing
- Basic rhetorical devices (symbolism, characterization, foreshadowing, setting, etc.)
- Basic persuasive essay formats (introduction paragraphs, body paragraphs that analyze evidence from text)
- Basic concepts and events of American History (the American Revolution, WWI & II, freedom, democracy, individualism)
- English 3-4 or Honors Humanities recommended
- Reading and writing abilities at the high school level
- Hard working, self-motivated, self-advocates
- Has the ability to work in large and small cooperative learning groups
- Able to keep a well-organized notebook, and take thorough notes

SAMPLE ESSAY PROMPT

Choose a theme central to the novel and analyze how the author develops the theme over the course of the novel OR how the fully developed theme connects to issues in our modern world.

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

- Reading numerous fictional works inside and outside of class including: novels, short stories, plays, and poetry
- Reading numerous non-fiction texts inside and outside of class including: literary criticisms, essays and articles
- 1-2 pages of written response (varies depending on the assignment, essay, etc.)
- 3 multi-draft essays: narrative, response to literature, expository
- 4 timed writings (in-class planning and writing): argument, expository
- 2 multi-media projects (group)

Please see syllabus for additional course rules and information