

English 3

UC/CSU "b" approved/NCAA approved

Grade Level: 11

Estimated Work Outside of Class: 3-4 hrs per week
(depending on reading and writing stamina)

Course Description:

In this American Literature course, students will explore the writings of our diverse American population. We will consider the nuances of writing throughout the different eras in American history, focusing on the attitudes that shaped the writing of the time. Essential skills include reading comprehension and analysis of these works in discussion, essays, and projects. Students may also investigate rhetoric and literary criticism. Consider this class as an introduction to college-level thinking, reading, writing, and rhetoric.

Prerequisite:

Completion of English 2 or English 2H

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:

- Time management and organization skills
- Experience writing multi-paragraph essays
- Willingness to keep an open mind when reading and analyzing texts that might challenge their thinking

Course Grade Categories:

- Academic Writing: 60%
- Projects & Assessments: 20%
- Tasks/Independent Practice: 20%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

Semester 1

Unit 1: Introduction to American Literature

Possible Texts: Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and 2-3 other teacher selected foundational documents

Major Assessment: Diagnostic Writing Piece

Unit 2: Coming to America: Analyze and synthesize how an American identity is created.

Possible Texts: "The New Colossus," Emma Lazarus and 4-6 teacher selected immigrant poems and short stories

Major Assessments: Coming to America Unit Synthesis Essay

Unit 3: Self vs. Society: Analyze the experience and perspective of American slavery and justice.

Possible Texts: *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, *American Dervish* by Ayad Akhtar, *Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, and 2–3 other teacher selected supplemental readings

Major Assessments: Literary Analysis Process Essay

Unit 4: Identity and Conformity: Explore how individuals have conformed to and broken societal norms throughout American history.

Possible Texts: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer, 2–3 teacher selected supplemental readings, analyzing conformity and/or power

Major Assessments: On-Demand Writing

Semester 2

Unit 5: The American Dream: Analyze what the “American Dream” is and to what extent it is achievable. Identify an author’s viewpoint and how their choices contribute to meaning.

Possible Texts: “New Day’s Lyric” by Amanda Gorman, “Paradox and Dream” by John Steinbeck, and 2–3 teacher selected supplemental readings

Major Assessment: Rhetorical Precis

Unit 6: American Dreams and Perceptions: Explore and evaluate the American Dream and how it has been shaped or sought after.

Possible Texts: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and 2–3 teacher selected supplemental readings

Major Assessment: Argument Essay

Unit 7: Journey to Self: Explore how an individual’s journey shapes their growth.

Possible Texts: *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena Maria Viramontes, a memoir, or a coming of age novel, and 2–3 teacher selected immigrant poems and short stories

Major Assessment: On-demand analysis

Unit 8: Looking Back and Moving Forward: Reflect on personal experience and craft a personal narrative.

Possible texts: *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green or a memoir or short narrative model texts.

Major Assessment: Personal Narrative