

# American Literature

## Course Syllabus

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**Course Description:** Students will research and write on topics pertaining to American authors alongside history and the progression of literature in The United States, beginning with the Enlightenment era and concluding with a 1920s tale on The American Dream. The primary goal of this class is to expose students to an array of informational, fictional, autobiographical, and creative text forms as they are taught proper annotation and analysis techniques to demonstrate in their writing. Students will be expected to read beyond the text as they participate in class discussion and answer thought-provoking guiding questions. Oral communication skills are taught through various presentations, both formal and informal, that students will be assigned throughout the year.

### Curricular Information

**Required Reading:** *The Crucible* (Arthur Miller), *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Mark Twain), *Of Mice and Men* (John Steinbeck), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee), various poetry, short stories, and nonfiction

**Standards:** [Idaho Content Standards for English](#); out of those standards, students in this course will be covering: 9/10.RC-L-5a.-e., 9/10.RC-NF-6a.-e., 9/10.VD-WB-1a.-d., 9/10.VD-WB-2a.-d., 9/10.VD-AV-3, 9/10.RS-IP-1, 9/10.RS-DR-2, 9/10.W-RW-1-6, 9/10.W-HWK-7, 9/10.ODC-OC-1-4, 9/10.ODC-DC-5-8, 9/10.GC-GU-1a.-j., 9/10.GC-GU-2a.-c., 3

**Additional Resources:** Google Classroom; Khan Academy

**Supplies Required for this Course:** College-ruled lined spiral notebook, plenty of pencils/lead, 2-3 red, blue, OR black pens, 2-3 highlighters, 1 package of lined notecards

**Daily Time and Effort Expectations:** In American Literature, discussion and writing assignments are graded heavily. Literature is meant to be read, discussed, and reflected upon. These tasks will be performed **daily** and students are expected to prepare themselves appropriately in order to participate. Students must learn to use class work time efficiently and turn in assignments on time. **Students should expect nightly reading and/or writing.**

**Notebook Checks:** Students will submit their notebooks regularly to check that all notes have been taken in a neat and organized manner, which includes an updated table of contents. **If absent**, students are responsible for communicating with a peer or teacher to update their notebooks.

**Google Classroom:** Google Classroom is a **tool** used to find resources, submit **some** work, and see upcoming deadlines in order to plan accordingly. Students should see Google Classroom if absent for makeup work (and email with questions as needed). **Google Classroom does not take the place of face-to-face instruction.**

## Course Schedule

Topics	Major Reading and Assignments	Timeframe
Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“What is an American?” from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> (1781) by J. Hector John St. John De Crèvecoeur</li> <li><i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin: Success and Virtue</i> (excerpt): What is <u>your</u> definition of success?</li> <li>Patrick Henry’s Speech at the Second Virginia Convention: an introduction to persuasive rhetoric and technique</li> <li>“Letter to her daughter from the new white house” by Abigail Adams</li> <li><b><i>The Crucible</i> (Arthur Miller)</b></li> </ul>	5-6 weeks
Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Narrative in the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (excerpt) and <i>Incidents in the life of a slave girl</i> by Harriet Jacobs</li> <li>Sojourner Truth’s Speech “Ain’t I a Woman?”</li> <li><b><i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (Mark Twain)</b></li> </ul>	5-6 weeks
Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Short Stories/Nonfiction:</b> Henry David Thoreau, Washington Irving, Kate Chopin, Jack London</li> <li><b>Poetry:</b> Emily Dickinson, Emerson, Walt Whitman, Longfellow</li> </ul>	3 weeks
Unit 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Semester Final Exam: Class work time, writing, creating, practicing presentation, etc.</li> </ul>	Month of January
Unit 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck</b></li> <li><b>Short Stories:</b> Faulkner and Hemingway</li> <li><b>Poetry:</b> Eliot and Frost</li> </ul>	5-6 weeks
Unit 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee</b></li> <li><b>Poetry:</b> Maya Angelou</li> <li><b>Nonfiction:</b> FDR’s Inaugural Address (1932)</li> </ul>	6-7 weeks
Unit 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Semester Final Exam: Class work time, writing, creating, practicing presentation, etc.</li> </ul>	4 weeks

## Course Evaluation:

The percentage breakdown for semester grade calculation will be as follows:

**Skills Practice**                    **35%**

- Khan Academy SAT practice, Question of the Day (QOD)/exit tickets, class discussions, drafting process assignments, mini-lesson practice work/activities

**Assessments**                    **50%**

- Mini-lesson assessments, final writing assignments, formal presentations

**Final Exam or Project**    **15%**

## Grading Scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Proficiency descriptors</b>
<b>A+</b>	<b>97-100</b>	<i>Assignments are fully completed in a timely manner and of excellent quality; the student shows superior level of initiative and seeks to <u>go beyond the minimum requirements</u>. Errors are rare or nonexistent.</i>
<b>A</b>	<b>93-96</b>	
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-92</b>	
<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<i>Assignments are fully completed in a timely manner and typically of above average quality; the student is conscientious and meets all requirements with few errors.</i>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>	
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>	
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<i>Assignments are generally complete (met minimum requirements) and of good quality; assigned tasks have occasional errors.</i>
<b>C</b>	<b>73-76</b>	
<b>C-</b>	<b>70-72</b>	
<b>D+</b>	<b>67-69</b>	<i>Assignments are generally incomplete or of poor quality; the student makes frequent errors in work.</i>
<b>D</b>	<b>63-66</b>	
<b>D-</b>	<b>60-62</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59</b>	<i>Work is poorly done, if at all. Overall performance is inadequate to pass the course.</i> <i>Note: No name = No credit</i> <i>Illegible = No credit</i> <i>Late = No credit (*will <u>STILL</u> complete and submit the assignment)</i>

**Classroom Policies and Expectations:** Students are expected to adhere to the classroom rules set by the teacher in their assigned classroom, and in accordance with expectations found in the North Idaho STEM Charter Academy Student Handbook and Technology Policy.

**Academic Honesty Code of Conduct:**

“On my honor, I will maintain the highest possible standards of honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility. This means I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and as a member of this academic community, I am committed to creating an environment of respect and mutual trust.”

**Violations of this code include, but are not limited to:**

- Copying another person’s work or allowing your work to be copied (plagiarism)
- Allowing someone other than yourself to complete work in your name
- Using unauthorized assistance on an assessment or assignment
- Falsifying or manipulating data
- Submitting the same work for multiple courses without instructor’s permission

- Giving answers to other students
- Lying to an instructor
- Tampering with or destroying the work of another student
- Using responses found on the internet, or created with the use of technological means (ex artificial intelligence, etc.)
- Overuse of a thesaurus to which the work is no longer written in **your voice**

***\*\*Any outside sources used on an assignment should be referenced and cited appropriately.\*\****

**Consequences for Academic Dishonesty:** At the instructor's discretion, the student **will** lose partial or full credit for the assignment. The student will be on notice that the incident will be recorded in the gradebook and his/her parent(s) will be informed. Future academic dishonesty incidents will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, a meeting with the principal, and possible loss of credit, suspension, or expulsion. Direct copying is plagiarism. Only original work may be submitted for this (and any other) academic course. If you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism, please visit the [OWL at Purdue's "Avoiding Plagiarism" web page.](#)