

**ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL**

**DEPARTMENT:**

**ENGLISH**

**NAME OF COURSE:**

**AMERICAN CIVILIZATION**

**General Description of Course**

The American Civilization course is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of American history and literature for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Organized around a number of primary problematic themes that have influenced American culture, the course will focus on the experiment that is the United States – the social, political and economic. These themes will be explored in the literature assigned. In addition, emphasis is placed in a variety of writing skills, vocabulary development and correct usage.

**Major Topics Covered**

- **Language**

Students are given ample preparation for PSAT, SAT, and Regents examinations which include reading comprehension, grammar, usage, synonyms, and antonyms. Vocabulary development also includes words taken from the context of required reading and SAT words. The study of grammatical and usage concepts includes a review of agreement, perfect tenses, comma usage, and the active and passive voices.

- **Literature**

Among the questions to be explored in history as well as literature are:  
What is the relationship between the individual and the government?  
What is the meaning of the word freedom?  
How is success defined?  
How has America treated the issues of race and gender?

- **Composition**

The course will be taught in seminar fashion which requires consistent and substantial student participation. In addition, students will be required to write a series of detailed essays, research papers, journals, and personal responses. Students will also have ample preparation for the Regents examination in June, begin composing a college autobiographical essay, and complete several short research projects. The American Literature component of the American Civilization course has adopted a writing workshop model that encourages process-writing and revision.

**Literature**

*The Scarlet Letter, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, Our Town, Ragtime, The Great Gatsby, and The Crucible.*

Additional titles are available for outside reading assignments.

**Requirements**

Assigned class reading and supplementary reading  
Major and minor compositions, quizzes, tests, and projects appropriate to the units studied, a short *research essay due at the end of each quarter*.  
*Final examination: The **Common Core English Regents***

### **Grading Procedures**

Grades are based on compositions, tests, quizzes, class participation, and homework. The Regents examination counts as one-fifth of the final average.