

## **ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL**

**DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH**

**NAME OF COURSE: AMERICAN LITERATURE**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

This is a traditional junior English course with a primary focus on American literature in an historical context from the Colonial period to the present. Emphasis is placed on 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, word analogies, synonyms and antonyms. Vocabulary development also includes words taken from the context of required reading and a vocabulary workbook. The study of grammatical and usage concepts includes the review of perfect tenses and the active and passive voices.
- ***Literature***  
In general, this study includes the following issues, not necessarily in chronological order: Puritanism, Transcendentalism, Naturalism, and Realism (modern writers). Under these topical headings, which represent pronounced periods in the literary heritage of the United States, students learn about regional influences, social forces, dominant ideas, historical events, and aesthetic values that influenced American authors in their prose, poetry, and drama. Students are challenged to confront ethical and moral issues in literature and to consider reasonable ways of resolving them.
- ***Composition***  
Students write frequently and are instructed in techniques on description, exposition, and argumentation. Additional writing includes a college autobiographical essay. Students also do a research project. A process writing approach allows for revision. Opportunity is also provided for interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects.

### **LITERATURE\***

<i>The Great American Short Stories</i>	<i>The Crucible</i>
<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	<i>Ordinary People</i>
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	<i>Our Town</i>
<i>United States in Literature</i>	<i>Kindred</i>
<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>
<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	<i>American Son</i>

Additional titles are available for latitude to meet the needs of different classes and for outside reading assignments.

\*Some works may be outside reading assignments.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Assigned class reading and supplementary reading
- Major and minor compositions, quizzes, tests, and projects appropriate to the units studied.
- Final examination: *The Common Core English Regents*

### **GRADING PROCEDURES**

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