

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH

NAME OF COURSE: AMERICAN LITERATURE AND ANALYSIS (HONORS)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

This is a demanding traditional junior English course with a primary focus on close textual analysis of American Classics in their historical context. Refined writing skills are expected and developed. Emphasis is also placed on vocabulary development and usage.

MAJOR TOPICS COVERED

• ***Language***

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

• ***Literature***

Students study the ever-evolving American tradition in literature. In general, this study follows a chronological order: Puritanism, Transcendentalism, Romanticism, 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 factors, 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 of exposition and argumentation. Additional writing includes a college autobiographical essay. Students also do a research project which includes an oral presentation. A process writing approach allows for revision. Opportunity is also provided for interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects.

LITERATURE* SELECTIONS WILL COME FROM:

United States in Literature -- An anthology of the American tradition in literature from the colonial period to the present in short story, poetry, essay and drama.

<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	<i>Ragtime</i>
<i>Walden [selections]</i>	<i>Our Town</i>	<i>Ordinary People</i>
<i>Emerson [selections]</i>	<i>The Crucible</i>	<i>Devil in the White City</i>
<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
<i>Ethan Frome</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Kindred</i>

*Some works may be outside reading selections.

REQUIREMENTS

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

GRADING PROCEDURES

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