

ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL

Department: Social Studies

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 11th grade. Organized around a number of themes that have influenced American culture, the course will focus on the experiment that is the United States – the social, the political, and the economic. It is our hope that students will see the connections between our history, our literature, and our culture. In addition, they will see themselves as part of the continuation of the American experiment.

Major Topics Covered

Among the questions to be explored in 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, class, and gender?

Textbooks and Related Resources

Students will be reading in *America Past and Present*, the US history textbook, plus primary sources and contemporary articles. In addition, they will be reading the following literature: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*, *Our Town*, *Ragtime*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Crucible*.

Requirements

The course will be taught in seminar fashion which requires consistent and substantial student participation. In addition, students will be required to write extensively in essays, journals, research papers, and exams.

Grading Procedures

Grades will be based on research projects, essays, tests, class participation, and homework.