

Department: English

Course Name: United States Literature

Course Description:

This literature and composition course, a study of American literature from early Native Americans to contemporary writers, explores the intellectual, social, and political issues affecting our literary heritage. The focus will be on both utilitarian literature and fiction; we will explore literature from the seventeenth through the twenty-first centuries. Students will develop their skills in literary analysis, grammar, writing and research through a variety of methods, taking into account the various learning styles of individual students. Group discussions, projects, electronic slide presentations, oral presentations, peer editing, and dramatic presentations are among the methods students can expect to encounter in this course. Students will continue to develop their writing skills in the form of expository and analytical essays, creative writing, and thesis paper. This course is required of all juniors not enrolled in Advanced Placement Junior English

Content:

Vocabulary

Grammar

Fiction and nonfiction texts

Literary terminology

Voice and style in writing

Personal narrative

Analytical writing

Research process and project

Documenting sources

Socratic seminar techniques

Annotating a text

Skills:

Read, comprehend and analyze poetry, prose, and nonfiction

Identify figurative language, literary terminology, and rhetorical devices

Annotate text

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence

Respond to writing prompts

Cite sources

Articulate and communicate complex ideas through discussion

Express an understanding and analysis of literature through oral presentations

Analyze author's purpose

Make connections within and among literary works

Analyzing and evaluating how the structure of a text contributes to the meaning of the works as a whole

Publish work digitally

Clarify, support, and defend an argument

Demonstrate knowledge that reflects a variety of genres of major periods, cultures and eras of literature

Text and Materials:

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Book Club with choice of one of the following: *World War Z* by Max Brooks, *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, *Feed* by M.T. Anderson, or *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

Various short stories, poems, speeches, essays, and articles

Methods of Instruction:

Small group discussions

Lecture

Writing Workshops

Digital Tools including (but not limited to) Nearpod, Google Documents (for writing feedback), and Google Forms

Article of the Week with rhetorical analysis

Quarterly Independent Reading

Oral Presentations to include: debate, take a stand, four corners, group analysis, etc...

Methods of Evaluation:

Literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, and argumentative essays (at home and timed writings)

Projects

Oral Presentations

Quizzes

Homework

