

# SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Audio Instructor Thelma English

## SYLLABUS

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To present a college preparatory survey of American literature from the time of the Puritans to postmodern. 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will progress through American thought and culture, studying each link as it is reflected in primary source literature: Puritan theism to postmodernism through biblical analysis. Visit [www.thelmaslibrary.com](http://www.thelmaslibrary.com) to listen to an audio introduction to American Lit!
2. To enable students to interpret literature successively by studying each link in American thought, culture, and history as it is reflected in our literature: Theism, Deism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Slave narratives, Southwestern Humor, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism will each be explored. Authors include Bradford, Mather, Wigglesworth, Edwards, Paine, Franklin, Emerson, Thoreau, Douglas, Alcott, Twain, Stowe, Crane, Hawthorne, Poe, Whitman, Harte, London, Hemingway, O'Henry, Founding Documents, essays, Walden, Huck Finn, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and more in short story format.
3. To improve writing skills, expand vocabulary, and provide grammar review. Reading and writing assignments are divided into three categories; grades 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12. Each of the three levels progresses to more reading and writing. Seniors also make one presentation.
4. Students will learn to do research and cite sources accurately and honestly. Students are expected to utilize multiple sources and practice intellectual integrity when writing papers.

### CLASS FORMAT

1. Classes are **2.25 hours** long, including a 15-minute break. Students listen to weekly audio sessions with reading and writing assignments. The detailed weekly schedule is essential.
2. Cultural and historical information relating to the time period is presented to assist students in understanding the author and his subject. Every effort will be made to help the students view the subject with a biblical worldview. Syllabus reading, as listed in the Schedule, is essential.
3. Classes will combine lecture, quizzes, semester exams, PowerPoint structured notes, and read-aloud sessions.

### COURSE TEXTS

See Book list

Seniors will select a project by November and present in class during April or May, 2009. Projects can be papers read aloud, dramatic presentations, visual, or artistic - or any combination; group projects upon approval.

### GRADING

1. Parents or instructors will grade following the standard scale (A+ 96-100; A 93-95; A- 90-92; B+ 86-89; B 83-85; B- 80-82; C+ 76-79 and so on). Mrs. English does not grade student work but does provide grading guidelines, assignment grade values for each quarter, and some graded student work examples.
2. One paper may be turned in up to three days late without penalty. The second late paper loses one full grade three hours after it is due, and one letter grade each three days thereafter. Mrs. English strongly recommends all instructors follow this guideline.
3. Extra credit is available for film reviews or cultural reports not included in assignments.
4. Seniors will present a research project or paper on an approved topic. Topics may include further exploration of a particular author or time period. Projects can also be student-produced educational games or PowerPoint presentations. Guidelines provided.