

## SYLLABUS

### American Literature QSI Virtual School

Semester/Term: 2020/21

#### Instructor Information

Instructor: Leslie H. Winter

Email: [leslieh-winter@qvs.qsi.org](mailto:leslieh-winter@qvs.qsi.org)

Online Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 4pm-5pm (CST), Skype: Leslie.winter8

Preferred Method of Communication: Email

#### Course Description

The content of the course encompasses a historical examination of American literature in chronological order. This includes the study of journals, personal narratives, documents, speeches, short stories, plays, poetry, and novels. The American Literature course is divided into 10 units consisting of 8 Essential Units and 2 teacher-directed Selective Units. Within the 10 units of American Literature, students are expected to read at least 2 novels in its entirety and 1 play in its entirety.

In addition, in order to prepare students adequately with college-level writing and speaking skills, many Essential Outcomes include specific writing and speaking outcomes in various genres.

#### Course Prerequisites

Literature II; Writing II

#### Required Materials

Textbooks: Holt McDougal's *Literature: American Literature* and *The Bedford Reader*

#### Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access

#### Course Grading

QVS is a mastery learning school where students must demonstrate that they meet certain criteria, or "The Student Will, TSWs, before a unit can be closed and credit awarded. The assignments for each unit are designed to give students a change to meet the TSW criteria and receive either a "B" for Mastery or an "A" for Above Mastery. The TSW criteria for each unit can be found on the course page.

Mastery (at an 'A' or 'B' level) of 10 units of American Literature is a graduation requirement for the academic diploma. The 8 Essential Units are mandatory, while the remaining 2 Selective

Units make a total of 10 units mastered. American Literature course is required to use five class periods per week.

## Course content

The American Literature course is divided into 10 units consisting of 7 Essential Units and 3 teacher-directed Selective Units. Within the 10 units of American Literature, students are expected to read at least **2 novels** in its entirety and **1 play** in its entirety. Essential Unit #2 and Essential Unit #5 as well as many of the Selective Units lend themselves to this requirement. Also within each of the 10 units, students are expected to show mastery on all of the listed “Essential Outcomes.”

In addition, in order to prepare students adequately with college-level writing and speaking skills, many Essential Outcomes include specific writing and speaking outcomes in various genres. Essential writing tasks are found in Unit 2, 3, 5, and 6 and essential speaking tasks are found in Units 2 and 6. These outcomes are intended to be assessed specifically in either formal written or formal spoken form as indicated in the unit so that the students are guaranteed an opportunity to master these skills. Rubrics for each task are included in each unit.

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### Essential Units:

**E01** – Early American Writing: Native American Literature, Literature of Discovery, and Puritan Literature

**E02** – The Age of Reason: The Revolutionary War and The Enlightenment

**E03** – Celebrating the Individual: Romanticism and Transcendentalism

**E04** – The Dark Side of Individualism: (Gothic Literature)

**E05** – An Age of Transition: Civil War Literature, Realism, Naturalism, and Regionalism

**E06** – A Changing Awareness: The Harlem Renaissance and Modernism

**E07** – In-Depth Study: (American Author, Work, and/or Literary Movement)

**E08** – Contemporary Literature: (Modern American Drama, Responses to War, Civil Rights and Protest Literature)

## **Selective Units:**

**S04** – Focus on American Fiction

**S07** – Thematic/Literary Period Drama Study

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

Students complete IOL prior to being enrolled into their main QVS course.

E01 – week 1-3

E02 – week 4-7

E03 – week 8-11

E04 – week 12-15

E05- week 16-20

E06- week 21-24

E07- week 25-28

E08- week 29-31

S04- week 32-33

S07 – week 34-35

## **Attendance Policy**

5 periods per week, (equivalent of 225 minutes per week)