

SYLLABUS

American Literature QSI Virtual School

Term: 2022/23
Asynchronous

Instructor Information

Instructor: Chelsea Utecht

Email: chelsea-utecht@qvs.qsi.org

Online Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11-1pm, (GMT +3) or by appointment [TEAMS LINK](#)

Preferred Method of Communication: Email or Teams chat

Course Description

American Literature is a literature-based course which is generally engaged in 11th grade. The usual prerequisites are mastery of Literature II and Writing II outcomes or the equivalent. In exceptional cases, students may engage in American Literature if the Writing II and/or Literature II outcomes are not mastered.

The content of American Literature encompasses a historical examination in chronological order of American literature. This includes the study of journals, personal narratives, documents, speeches, short stories, plays, poetry, and novels.

Mastery of the course requires the completion of ten units. There are eight “Essential Units” and two “Selective Units”, which are chosen by the teacher.

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 (an electronic version of this textbook will be provided)

Other materials will be provided by the teacher

Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access

Microphone

Course Grading

Assignment Grading

There are two types of assignments:

- 1) Formative assignments to help the student learn will be graded as “Complete” or “Incomplete”
- 2) Summative assignments that will be used to determine whether the student has mastered the necessary skills for that unit. These will be marked as “A-level mastery” for those mastered at a high level, “B-level mastery” for those mastered at the standard level, or “Attempted” for those assignments submitted but not yet at the mastery level.

Unit Grading

Units are graded at A, B or D. An A or B will be based off of the rubrics at the start of each unit. A student may receive a D for a unit grade if they have plagiarized material (please read further on this in the QVS handbook) or if they have failed to show sufficient effort to complete the unit.

Grading Turn Around Times

My goal is to provide you with timely feedback on your work.

- 1) During the week, I will endeavor to provide feedback/grades *within 24 hours*.
- 2) If you submit an assignment Friday, over the weekend, or during a QVS break, I will return it after 24 hours of a working day. (Keep in mind that we may be in different time zones so this may impact when you receive feedback).
- 3) If you submit a large amount of work or many students happen to submit at the same time, this may not be possible. In this instance, I will communicate this fact with you and keep you updated on my progress on getting you feedback.

June Grading

Because Mastery Learning allows students to upgrade their work and, to some extent, work at their own pace, there may be opportunities to turn work in after the initial due date. However, in order to ensure that teachers can provide sufficient feedback and have time to grade all work before final grades are due, students may not complete more than 2 units in June.

Course content

Essential Units:

Below are the major, summative assignments for each unit. There will be additional assignments to help instruct and reinforce the content of each unit. These are brief descriptions. Within the course, the student will see full instructions.

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

Summative Assignments: Analyses of written and oral pieces of literature, presentation comparing myths, poem written in the style of Puritan poetry with analysis

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

Summative Assignments: Essay, speech, journal entry regarding aphorisms

E03 – *Celebrating the Individual: Romanticism and Transcendentalism

Summative Assignments: Literary analyses of essays and poetry, essay on Romantic ideals

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

Summative Assignments: Presentation on Poe's work

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

Summative Assignments: Analyses of various literature, personal narrative, journal entry
Regarding values of Realist and Naturalistic writers

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

Summative Assignments: Analysis of various pieces of literature, project (student choice)
on the development of Harlem Renaissance, literary analysis essay

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

Summative Assignments: Independent research, essay, presentation (all of these will be
connected to the same, student-chosen topic)

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

Summative Assignments: Chronological survey of American literature, analysis of
various pieces of literature, presentation of this information (student-chosen format)

Selective Units:

S01 – Puritan Based Fiction/Study

Summative Assignments: Literary analysis essay on *The Crucible*

S04 – Focus on American Fiction

Summative Assignments: In-depth study on specific author of student choice (with
choice in final presentation format)

Tentative Course Schedule

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

The below schedule is tentative and is subject to minor changes as necessary.

Unit E01 – Early American Writing

Sept 5-30

Unit S01 – Puritan Based Fiction/Study

Oct 3-28

[FALL BREAK] Oct 29-Nov 6

Unit E02 – The Age of Reason

Nov 7- 25

Unit E03 – The Celebrating the Individual

Nov 28-Dec 16

[WINTER BREAK] Dec 17-Jan 8

Unit E04 – Gothic Literature

Jan 9-Feb 3

Unit E05 – An Age of Transition

Feb 6-Mar 3

Unit E06 – A Changing Awareness

Mar 6-Mar 24

Unit E08 –Contemporary Literature

Mar 27-Apr 21

[SPRING BREAK] April 8-16

Unit E07 – In-Depth Study

Apr 24-May 12

Unit S04 – Focus on American Fiction

May 15-June 9

Attendance Policy

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

Students are expected to submit work and communicate daily. When assignments are submitted in bulk, feedback time increases.

Classroom Behavior expectations

For synchronous communication:

School appropriate attire, Camera on at all times, Microphone muted on login

For asynchronous communication:

Be polite and respectful in responses to forum posts of other students, bullying will not be tolerated. Upload only appropriate pictures, not sure about the wording

Academic honesty

Refer to the QVS School Handbook @ <https://qvs.qsi.org/academics/school-handbook>

Other Information

I understand that we will be working with a variety of time zones. I am additionally available for scheduled meetings at other times and am happy to meet with parents. I will respond within 1 work day (excluding weekends and breaks listed here).

I am available for meetings with parents through Zoom as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.