



Greenwich Public Schools Curriculum Overview

American Literature ESL 4 (Grades 10-12)

Personalized learning is achieved through standards-based, rigorous and relevant curriculum that is aligned to digital tools and resources.

Note: Teachers retain professional discretion in how the learning is presented based on the needs and interests of their students.

Course Description:

AMERICAN LITERATURE ESL 4 (Grades 10-12)

Full Year

101950 6 Blocks 1 English Credit

Prerequisites: At least three years of English and teacher recommendation.

NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) approved course

In this college preparatory course for English language learners, the student will develop advanced academic skills in reading and writing. The emphasis is on the critical analysis and interpretation of various American authors of the 19th and 20th centuries. The course will also include an intensive review of English grammar, vocabulary development and essay writing. Particular focus will be given to response to literature in the form of essays and journal entries, personal essay writing reflecting college application requirements as well as use of source materials and their applications across disciplines. Students may be enrolled in American History ESL (Grades 10-12) which includes Seminar Skills.

Major Units

- College Preparation (including standardized tests), Application Process, and Career Research
- Identity and Shared Values
- Understanding Justice
- Community Values, Participation, and Responsibilities
- Family and Home
- Marginalization of people and groups
- The American Dream
- The Immigrant Experience
- Independent Reading

Enduring Understanding

- Reading and writing inform an understanding of ourselves and the world.
- Readers construct critical interpretations of text and support arguments based on evidence.
- Social, political, and cultural factors influence an author's craft.
- Close reading strategies deepen a reader's understanding of a text and appreciation of an author's craft.
- Characteristics of effective writing and speaking for different purposes can be learned.

- An expanded vocabulary and understanding of appropriate language conventions improve comprehension and communication.
- Diverse American authors shape the American Voice and our understanding of the American Dream.

Performance Tasks:

- Common Application Essay
- Interpersonal and presentational speaking activities such as debates, fishbowl discussions, and Socratic Seminars
- Teacher-generated quizzes and unit assessments to show mastery (vocabulary and grammar along with listening, reading, speaking) and literary analysis
- Non-Fiction and Literary Essays with a thesis, supporting evidence, and citations
- Research sources and evaluate their credibility
- **Capstone:** Presentation for Vision of the Graduate: Communicate effectively for a given purpose

Standards

[CELP Standards for English Language Learners \(page 12 of the linked document\)](#)

[Common Core Standards: Writing --> 11-12](#)

[Common Core Standards: Reading Literature --> 11-12](#)

Resources

- *American Readings* Grindell, Marelli and Nadler
- *Death of a Salesman* Miller, Arthur
- *A Raisin in the Sun* Hansberry, Lorraine
- *Murders in the Rue Morgue and other short stories.* Poe, Edgar Allan
- *The Color of Water* McBride, James
- *Selected Short Stories* Crane, London, O. Henry, and Hemingway
- *Our Town* Wilder, Thornton
- *Shoeless Joe* Kinsella, W. P.
- *The Pearl and Flight* Steinbeck, John
- *The Red Badge of Courage, Open Boat* Crane, Stephen
- *The United States in Literature* Miller, Wood, de Dwyer
- *20th Century American Short Stories* McConochie, Jean A.
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* Lee, Harper
- *Fences*, Wilson, August
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* Stevenson, Bryan
- Selection of short stories, articles, videos, author interviews and literary reviews