

## ENGLISH 3-T, LEVEL 9: AMERICAN STUDIES (W222339)

American Studies encourages students to appreciate the richness and diversity of the United States by exploring its culture from an interdisciplinary perspective. Through an inquiry-based study of American narratives using artifacts (novels, films, poems, primary source documents, short stories, and others), American Studies integrates the English and Social Studies disciplines. Key questions about the American experience help unify the course by erasing disciplinary distinctions between social studies and English, and in attempting to answer these key questions, students – and instructors – pursue a larger understanding of what it means to be an American. Learning activities include reading, research, composition, reflection, and oral presentation, in both individual and collaborative modes.

American Studies is a team-taught, double-period course. Two sections meet together daily in a large-group setting for 85 minutes. Students should expect to complete daily homework equivalent to two major courses, and as instructors seek to create an integrated experience for students, many assessments will be common between the two disciplines. This course fulfills the New Trier graduation requirements in both junior English and U.S. History. As in all junior English courses, American Studies students are required to complete a junior theme experience, an independent research paper focusing on the synthesis of literature and history.

**SUMMER READING:** News of the World, Jiles

**Core texts:** Choose at least **one** to teach for each semester for a total of two.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Douglass

The Crucible, Miller

The Great Gatsby, Fitzgerald

Song of Solomon or Beloved, Morrison

### I. FIRST SEMESTER

**A. Fiction:** Tortilla Curtain, Boyle  
The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne  
Beloved, Morrison

**B. Non-fiction:** Civil Disobedience and Other Essays, Thoreau (Dover)  
Self-Reliance and Other Essays, Emerson  
Walden, Thoreau (Dover or Signet)  
American Indian Stories, Zitkala-Ša (Penguin Classics)  
Classic Slave Narratives, ed. Gates (Mentor)

**C. Poetry:** 101 Great American Poems (Dover) [See Appendix A]

**D. Short Stories:** Young Goodman Brown & Other Short Stories, Hawthorne  
The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, Alexie  
Great American Short Stories, (Dover)  
[See Appendix B]

**E. Independent Reading:** Selected essays or a non-fiction text

### F. Film:

Title	Director	Year	Studio	Rating
<u>Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution</u>	LeBrecht	2020	Netflix	R
<u>Smoke Signals</u>	Eyre	1998	Miramax	PG-13
<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	Luhrmann	2013	Warner Bros	PG-13

## ENGLISH 3-T, LEVEL 9: AMERICAN STUDIES (W222339)

### G. Film Clips:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Studio</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<u>Reel Injun</u>	Diamond	2009	Lorber Films	Unrated
<u>News of the World</u>	Greengrass	2020	Universal Pictures	PG-13
<u>The Crucible</u>	Hyntner	1996	20th Century Fox	PG-13
<u>Death of a Salesman</u>	Schlöndorff	1985	CBS	PG

## II. SECOND SEMESTER

- A. Independent Reading:** Junior theme texts
- B. Fiction:** Kindred, Butler  
The Awakening, Chopin  
Their Eyes Were Watching God, Hurston  
Grapes of Wrath, Steinbeck
- C. Non-fiction:** Primary and secondary sources for the junior research paper  
Working, Terkel
- D. Drama:** American Dream, Albee  
Death of a Salesman, Miller  
Streetcar Named Desire, Williams  
The Laramie Project, Kaufman
- E. Poetry:** Poetry Collection, Department Files [Appendix A]  
101 Great American Poems (Dover)
- F. Short Stories:** Selected short stories, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Hemingway [Appendix B]
- G. Film:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Studio</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Twelve Years a Slave	McQueen	2013	Fox Searchlight	R
Glory	Zwick	1989	TriStar Pictures	R

### SELECTIONS:

#### A. Poetry:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Note</b>
"How to Write the Great American Indian Novel"	Alexie	
"Why We Play Basketball"	Alexie	

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Note</b>
"The Black Brigade"	Belle	
"Thanatopsis"	Bryant	
"Our Women of the Canteen"	Clifford	
"War is Kind"	Crane	
Crane selections	Crane	
"A Conversation with a Massage Therapist"	Cunningham	
"Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination..."	Diaz	
Dickinson selections	Dickinson	
Frost selections	Frost	
"Everything you need to know in Life You'll learn at Boarding School"	Grover	
"An American Sunrise"	Harjo	
"Once the World Was Perfect"	Harjo	
"Song 3. Soldiers"	Harjo	
"I, Too, Sing America"	Hughes	
"Will V-Day Be Me-Day Too?"	Hughes	
"American Heartbreak"	Hughes	
"Facing It"	Komunyakaa	
"If We Must Die"	McKay	
"Chicago"	Sandburg	
Sandburg selections	Sandburg	
"Washing the World"	Sewell	
"Ceremony"	Silko	
"Song of Myself"	Whitman	
Whitman selections	Whitman	

**B. Short Stories:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Note</b>
Excerpts from Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven	Alexie	
Selections from Winesberg, Ohio	Anderson	
"Open Boat"	Crane	
"A Rose for Emily"	Faulkner	
"Barn Burning"	Faulkner	
"The Yellow Wallpaper"	Gilman	
"The Minister's Black Veil"	Hawthorne	
"Legend of Sleepy Hollow"	Irving	
"China Men"	Kingston	
"To Build a Fire"	London	
"Bartleby the Scrivener"	Melville	

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Note</b>
"How To Tell A True War Story"	O'Brien	
"Harrison Bergeron"	Vonnegut	

**C. Essays:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Note</b>
"What is an American?"	Crevecoeur	
"What to the Slave is the 4th of July"	Douglass	
"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"	Edwards	
"Self-Reliance"	Emerson	
"Speech to the Virginia Convention"	Henry	
"Letter from a Birmingham Jail"	King	
"Two Treatises of Government"	Locke	
"Common Sense"	Paine	
"An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations"	Smith	
"Solitude of Self"	Stanton	
"Civil Disobedience"	Thoreau	

**D. Film Clips:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Studio</b>	<b>Rating</b>
127 Hours	Boyle	2010	Fox Searchlight	R
Good Night and Good Luck	Clooney	2005	Warner Independent Pictures	PG
Jesus Camp	Grady, Ewing	2006	Magnolia Pictures	PG-13
Cinderella Man	Howard	2005	Universal Pictures	PG-13
Into the Wild	Penn	2007	Paramount	R