

American Literature

(4/15/11)

1203-1204 American Literature (Year)

Grade 11

NCAA Approved

The following description is in addition to the general core description listed above.

Students will explore major themes and movements in American Literature. Emphasis will be placed on comparing works across historical periods and genres. Major writings focus on analysis and application of literary devices and themes. Readings will include novels as well as stories, essays, and poems. Individual and group oral presentations will be delivered and evaluated in class. Students will also practice skills needed for state merit testing.

Unit 1: Puritanism

Required Texts:

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (The American Experience, Volume 1)*

| Objective |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make supported inferences and draw conclusions based on informational print and multimedia features (e.g. marginal notes, illustrations, footnotes) and explain how authors use them to infer the organization of text and enhance understanding, convey meaning, and inspire or mislead audiences.• Engage in self-assessment as a reader, listener, and viewer, while monitoring comprehension and using a variety of strategies to overcome difficulties when constructing and conveying meaning.• Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, specialized vocabulary, figurative language, idiomatic expressions through context clues, word roots and affixes, and the use of appropriate resource materials such as print and electronic dictionaries.• Demonstrate knowledge of American minority literature and the contributions of minority writers• Analyze characteristics of specific works and authors (e.g., voice, mood, time sequence, author vs. narrator, intended audience and purpose, and propaganda) and identify basic beliefs, perspectives, and philosophical assumptions underlying an author's work.• Interpret literary language (e.g., imagery, allusions, symbolism, metaphor) while reading literary and expository works.• Recognize literary and persuasive strategies as ways by which authors convey ideas and readers make meaning.• Interpret the meaning of written, spoken, and visual texts by drawing on different cultural, theoretical, and critical perspectives.• Demonstrate an understanding of historical, political, cultural, and philosophical themes and questions raised by literary and expository works. |

Unit 2: Persuasion

Required Texts:

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (The American Experience, Volume 1)*

Objectives

- From the outset, identify and assess audience expectations and needs; consider the rhetorical effects of style, form, and content based on that assessment; and adapt communication strategies appropriately and effectively.
- Analyze characteristics of specific works and authors (e.g., voice, mood, time sequence, author vs. narrator, stated vs. implied author), and identify basic beliefs, perspectives, and philosophical assumptions underlying an author's work.
- Demonstrate an understanding of historical, political, cultural, and philosophical themes and questions raised by literary and expository works.
- Recognize literary and persuasive strategies as ways by which authors convey ideas and readers make meaning (e.g., imagery, irony, satire, propaganda, omission, and multiple points of view).
- Compose written and spoken essays that demonstrates logical thinking and the development of ideas for academic, creative, and personal purposes: essays that convey the author's message by using an engaging introduction (with a clear thesis as appropriate), well-constructed paragraphs, transition sentences, and a powerful conclusion.
- Select format and tone based on the desired effect and audience, using effective written and spoken language, sound, and/or visual representations (e.g., focus, transitions, facts, detail and evidence to support judgments, skillful use of rhetorical devices, and a coherent conclusion).

Unit 3: Romanticism

Required Texts:

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (The American Experience, Volume 1)*

| Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read and analyze classic and contemporary works of American literature representing a variety of genres and traditions and consider their significance in their own time period as well as how they may be relevant to contemporary society.• Identify different types of poetry and explain how specific features influence meaning.• Interpret literary language (e.g., imagery, allusions, symbolism, metaphor) while reading literary and expository works.• Demonstrate an understanding of literary characterization, character development, the function of major and minor characters, motives and causes for action, and moral dilemmas that characters encounter by describing their function in specific works.• Recognize a variety of plot structures and elements and describe their impact on the reader in specific literary works.• Analyze characteristics of specific works and authors and identify basic beliefs, perspectives, and philosophical assumptions underlying an author's work.• Explore the relationships among individual works, authors, and literary movements in American literature and consider the historical, cultural, and societal contexts in which works were produced. |

Unit 4: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Required Texts:

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain

| Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draw on a variety of critical perspectives to respond to and analyze works of literature.• Demonstrate an understanding of the connections between literary and expository works, themes, and historical and contemporary contexts.• Control standard English structures in a variety of contexts using language carefully and precisely.• Demonstrate use of conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics in written texts, including parts of speech, sentence structure and variety, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.• Interpret literary language (e.g., imagery, allusions, symbolism, metaphor) while reading literary and expository works.• Recognize a variety of plot structures and elements and describe their impact on the reader in specific literary works.• Examine differing and diverse interpretations of literary and expository works and explain how and why interpretation may vary from reader to reader• Understand how languages and dialects are used to communicate effectively in different roles, under different circumstances, and among speakers of different speech communities. |

Unit 5: *The Great Gatsby*

Required Texts:

- *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald

| Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a variety of pre-reading and previewing strategies to make conscious choices about how to approach the reading based on purpose, genre, level of difficulty, text demands and features.• Interpret the meaning of written, spoken, and visual texts by drawing on different cultural, theoretical, and critical perspectives.• Recognize a variety of plot structures and elements (e.g., story within a story, rising action, foreshadowing, flash backs, cause-and-effect relationships, conflicts, resolutions) and describe their impact on the reader in specific literary works.• Know and use a variety of prewriting strategies to generate, focus, and organize ideas• Explore the relationships among individual works, authors, and literary movements in American literature and consider the historical, cultural, and societal contexts in which works were produced.• Compose drafts that convey an impression, express an opinion, raise a question, argue a position, explore a topic, tell a story, or serve another purpose, while simultaneously considering the constraints and possibilities of the selected form or genre.• Reorganize sentence elements as needed and choose grammatical and stylistic options that provide sentence variety, fluency, and flow.• Edit for style, tone, and word choice and for conventions of grammar, usage and mechanics that are appropriate for audience. |

Unit 6: Harlem Renaissance

Required Texts:

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (The American Experience, Volume 1)*

| Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate knowledge of American minority literature and the contributions of minority writers.• Critically examine standards of literary judgment and questions regarding the inclusion and/or exclusion of literary works in the curriculum.• Read and analyze classic and contemporary works of literature representing a variety of genres and traditions and consider their significance in their own time period as well as how they may be relevant contemporary society.• Identify different types of poetry (e.g., epic, lyric, sonnet, free verse) and explain how specific features (e.g., figurative language, imagery, rhythm, alliteration, etc.) influence meaning.• Explore the relationships among individual works, authors, and literary movements in English and American literature, and consider the historical, cultural, and societal contexts in which works were produced.• Understand how languages and dialects are used to communicate effectively in different roles, under different circumstances, and among speakers of different speech communities . |

Unit 7: *The Crucible*

Required Texts:

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (The American Experience, Volume 1)*

| Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpret the meaning of written, spoken, and visual texts by drawing on different cultural, theoretical, and critical perspectives.• Demonstrate an understanding of literary characterization, character development, the function of major and minor characters, motives and causes for action, and moral dilemmas that characters encounter by describing their function in specific works.• Demonstrate an understanding of historical, political, cultural, and philosophical themes and questions raised by literary and expository works.• Analyze how the tensions among characters, communities, and themes reflect human experience.• Demonstrate an understanding of the connections between literary and expository works, themes, and historical and contemporary contexts. |

Unit 8: Contemporary American Writing

Required Texts:

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (The American Experience, Volume 1)*

| Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate knowledge of American minority literature and the contributions of minority writers.• Critically examine standards of literary judgment and questions regarding the inclusion and/or exclusion of literary works in the curriculum.• Read and analyze classic and contemporary works of literature representing a variety of genres and traditions and consider their significance in their own time period as well as how they may be relevant contemporary society.• Demonstrate an understanding of the connections between literary and expository works, themes, and historical and contemporary contexts. |

Board Approved - May 2011