American Literature -- Course Requirements 2019

Textbook(s)


Books and Plays on the Test-out Exam

Short Stories
“An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” Bierce
“To Build a Fire” London
“In Another Country” Hemingway
“A Worn Path” Welty
“The Story of an Hour” Chopin

Novels/plays
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* --- Twain
*The Scarlet Letter* --- Hawthorne
*The Great Gatsby* --- Fitzgerald
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* --- Kesey
*The Crucible*--Miller
*Death of a Salesman*--Miller
*A Prayer for Owen Meany* --- Irving

Course Description

Students in this course study the major literary movements, a thorough sampling of literary works within each movement, and the connection of each movement to history. A thorough understanding of Puritanism, Revolutionary war literature, the Age of Enlightenment, Romanticism and Gothic Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Anti-Transcendentalism, Civil War literature, Realism, Naturalism, Regionalism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism is expected to be demonstrated.

Literary Terminology

At the conclusion of this course students are expected to be proficient in the use of literary terms; these terms will be used to analyze material covered. (See the Literary Terms Handbook in Prentice Hall.)

Writing

☞ Analytical essays (See [OWL@purdue](https://owl.purdue.edu))
☞ Creative prose/poetry
☞ Exposition (compare/contrast, cause/effect, pro/con)
☞ Evaluative essays (applying literary themes to current culture)
☞ Research projects (MLA format) (See [OWL@purdue](https://owl.purdue.edu))
Note: The testing out requirements include an objective test, essay test, and writing portfolio, covering the full year's work in American Literature. The objective exam and writing portfolio make up 60% of the exam. The objective test makes up the remaining 40%. Required grade calculation for successful testing out is 77% (C+). The duration of the exam will be three hours. See attached for writing portfolio requirements.
American Literature Portfolio

Project

Determine a subject/concept/topic that you believe appropriately represents a crucial part of your personality or value system. This theme/subject will be used as the basis of your personal portfolio.

Your portfolio should include only works that illustrate your chosen topic and that are done by American writers/composers/artists. Include a copy of each of these works (or excerpts from them), and follow each with a response that includes:

1. An explanation of how the piece is linked to your theme;
2. An emphasis on any particular aspect of or lines from this piece that you feel speaks to you;
3. That part of your own individualized experiences or personal philosophy that responds most profoundly to the piece.

For example, if you have selected “Justice” as your theme, you may decide to use an excerpt from Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Huck, at one point, decides to defy social conscience and obey his individual conscience, thus realizing a higher level of justice. Your defense or commentary that accompanies this choice should explain its connection with or influence on your chosen theme of justice. Also, this is a suitable point at which to include any specific quotations from the selection that have special meaning to you (“’Alright then, I’ll go to hell’”) and any personal experiences that have caused you to test this concept. **NOTE: YOUR INCLUSION OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND THINKING IN RELATION TO THIS SELECTION, and all the selections, IS MOST CRUCIAL IN MAKING THIS AN EXCELLENT AMERICAN LITERATURE PORTFOLIO.**

Also, you can include texts of your own making that follow the same guidelines (and are clearly linked to the chosen theme and are followed by a response). Those texts stemming from your own creative process may fall in the genre of your choice (essay, photograph, poem, composition, dance, etc.). All texts, or appropriate representations of the texts, should fit in your portfolio.

Design*

Your portfolio should be securely bound in an attractive and thematic cover of your own making and should include a Title Page, a Dedication, an Introduction, a Table of Contents, the Text and Art Work with a Defense/Response accompanying each selection, and a Bibliography (Works Cited page) of appropriate entries.

Possible Topics *(not a comprehensive list!)*
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<th>adventure</th>
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<th>love</th>
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<tr>
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<td>change</td>
<td>growth</td>
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<td>happiness</td>
<td>competition</td>
<td>invention</td>
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<td>communication</td>
<td>justice</td>
<td>conflict</td>
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<td>determination</td>
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**Texts to Include**

- 3 Poems
- 1 Essays
- 2 Songs
- 2 Short Stories (all from print anthologies)
- 3 Art Works (limit of 1 personal photos)
- 1 Quotations
- 2 Novel Excerpts (from 2 different books)
- 1 Items of Special Interest
  (more of the same above or something else)

**15 minimum Total Items**

* All images used in the personal portfolio should be cited unless they are Microsoft clipart.