

American Literature

Objective: The goal of this course is for students to interact with some of the greatest literary works ever crafted in this country. By reading novelists such as Herman Melville and Mark Twain, poets such as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, and essayists such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, students will discover the ways in which this literature speaks to both the human and, more specifically, the American condition.

Rough Course Schedule:

Quarter 1	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i> Selected sermons of Jonathan Edwards <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Quarter 2	“Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson <i>Moby-Dick</i> by Herman Melville <i>Leaves of Grass</i> by Walt Whitman
Quarter 3	<i>Moby-Dick</i> by Herman Melville The poetry of Emily Dickinson <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> by Mark Twain
Quarter 4	Twentieth Century Short Stories and Poems Junior Thesis

Study Questions: Students will be assigned study questions to accompany each text. Each question should be responded to in writing (a half page per question should suffice) and turned in daily for a grade.

Participation: Students are expected to participate productively in class discussion every day.

Papers: Students will compose three 7-10 page papers throughout the year. Additional in-class essays may also be assigned.

Junior Thesis: Each student will compose a junior thesis on an approved topic of his/her choice. As part of the requirement for this paper, each student will give a thesis presentation in order to work out ideas and receive constructive feedback from peers.

Grading:

Study Questions	25%
Participation	25%
Papers	30%
Junior Thesis	20%

A note on plagiarism:

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Any student who uses the words or ideas of another without giving due credit will automatically fail the assignment at hand as well as face disciplinary action.

Please sign and return by September 10, 2007.

I have read the course expectations and will call or e-mail Miss Quammen with any concerns or questions.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

An electronic version of this syllabus is available at ridgeviewclassical.com.