

Name of School:

Name of Course: **American Authors**

Instructor Information

Name:
E-mail address:
School phone number:
Web page address:
Best times to be reached:

Course Description

American Authors focuses on selected longer 19th and 20th century works of American authors, such as Hawthorne, Dickinson, Whitman, Twain, Fitzgerald, Frost, and Hansberry. Selected works reflect enduring concerns of the individual and society. Students read and study a combination of forms such as the novel, short story, poem, and drama leading to discussion, writing activities, and special projects.

District Standards and Power Benchmarks

Standard: Students will apply reading, writing, and speaking skills to communicate effectively.

Grade Level Benchmarks:

- Students will be able to use text structure such as chronological order, cause and effect, compare and contrast, literary elements, and fact and opinion to aid comprehension of a variety of text formats and genres.
- Students will be able to determine meaning in literature by identifying and analyzing commonly used literary devices and elements.
- Students will know the characteristics and structure of a variety of literary genres.
- **Expert:** Students will be able to understand the specific literary style of the author and the effectiveness of techniques used to convey author's purpose and viewpoint.

Course Information

American Authors is a junior/senior nine-week (one-term) course. Credit awarded upon successful completion of the course is .5. There are no prerequisites for this class, but it is strongly recommended that students successfully complete *English 9* first.

Course Outline/Calendar

Students will read a variety of literature including essays, short stories, poetry, biographies, drama, and three novels. Four writing assignments will be completed using the writing process. Unit tests will be given. Students will be responsible for vocabulary and maintaining a course notebook. Quizzes may be given at any time. Academic vocabulary instruction is required. ACT Skills: English are also required.

Text/Other Required Materials/Resources

- *American Literature: A Chronological Approach*
- *The Scarlet Letter*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *Death of a Salesman*
- *The Old Man and the Sea*
- *Raisin in the Sun*
- Notebook
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pen, pencil

Additional Texts/Materials/Resources

Instructional Procedures & Support

1. A variety of teaching methods and strategies will be used, e.g., direct instruction, cooperative groups, graphic organizers, note taking, and framing.
2. **ACT Skills: English.**
3. Students will receive verbal and written instructions for major assignments.
4. Students may come in for additional assistance before or after school. A time should be arranged with the teacher in advance.
5. After an absence, students are responsible for checking with the instructor about make-up work and deadlines. A time should be arranged with the teacher.
6. District Literacy Initiative strategies will be used.

Classroom Management Procedures

Assessment Plan

Students' grades are based on points earned through daily assignments, quizzes, worksheets, notebooks, writing assignments, exams, and class participation. Points are converted to percentages, which fall within the Davenport Community Schools' grading scale.

Grading System

Points accumulate for daily assignments, writing assignments, projects, presentations, quizzes, and tests. Points are divided by the total possible for the grading period to produce a percentage. The Davenport Community Schools' district percentage grading scale and grading periods are as follows:

Quarter	Mid Term	End of Quarter
Quarter 1	Sept. 20, 2010	Oct. 20, 2010
Quarter 2	Nov. 17, 2010	Dec. 21, 2010
Quarter 3	Feb. 4, 2011	Mar. 9, 2011
Quarter 4	Apr. 20, 2011	May 24, 2011

A	93 and above	Firm command of knowledge domain High level of skill development
A⁻	90 - 92	Exceptional preparation for later learning
B⁺	87 - 89	Command of knowledge beyond the basic concepts of knowledge Advanced development of most skills
B	83 - 86	Has prerequisites for later learning

B⁻	80 - 82	
C⁺	77 - 79	Command of the basic concepts of knowledge Demonstrates ability to use basic skills Lacks a few prerequisites for later learning
C	73 - 76	
C⁻	70 - 72	
I		The letter "I" indicates the student has not satisfactorily achieved the grade/course-level benchmarks and/or has missing work. "I" status is temporary and not a final grade. The letter "I" may affect athletic eligibility.
D⁺	67 - 69	Lacks knowledge of some fundamental ideas Some important skills not attained Deficient in many of the prerequisites for later learning
D	63 - 66	
D⁻	60 - 62	
F	59 and below	Most of the basic concepts and principles not learned Most essential skills have not been demonstrated Lacks most prerequisites needed for later learning