

American Literature will be split into two semester courses. American Literature I will focus on the history and literature of America, beginning with early Native American literature and ending with Post Civil War literature. American Literature II will also focus on the history and literature of America, but will begin with The Modern Period and end with contemporary literature. Course completion will be accomplished through daily reading and homework, independent research and writing, and analysis of American literature. There will also be weekly quizzes and unit tests.

Upon completion of the course students will have a better understanding of American history and American literature.

Expectations

During this class students will be expected to bring with them a notebook, the American Literature textbook or novel we are currently reading, and a pen. Students will also be expected to participate in daily reading and activities within the classroom.

There will be daily homework, including the weekends. There will be quizzes at least once a week. Tests will follow the completion of each unit. There will also be at least two papers per semester. The final exam will be cumulative and is described in more detail below.

Grading Scale

The grading scale that will be used is the grading scale that has been established by the Virginia School Board and is published in the student handbook.

Grading Components

25% Tests
30% Homework
20% Quizzes
25% Papers

Course Requirements

Homework

There will be nightly homework (mostly reading) that is expected to be completed. These assignments will range from worksheets, independent research and writing, and reading assignments out of the book. This will account for 30% of the total quarter grade.

Tests

Tests will happen at the end of each unit. The format of the test will vary, but you can expect there to be short answer as well as essay questions. This will account for 25% of the total quarter grade.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz at the end of every week. The type of quiz will vary from week to week. Types of quizzes could possibly be multiple choice, short answer, essay, or a combination of types. This will account for 20% of the total quarter grade.

Papers

There will be at least two major papers written during each semester. There will be an undetermined number of smaller papers (five pages or fewer). Each paper will use APA style as well as full reference sheets. These papers will account for a cumulative 25% of the total quarter grade.

Plagiarism is not going to be accepted. This includes submitting an entire paper of cited quotes from various sources. Such work will be treated as if it were not submitted and given a zero.

Final

There will be a cumulative final given during the appointed final exam time in the fall/spring. This final will cover in-depth all of the major topics that were covered during the semester. It will be valued at 20% of your semester grade.

Topics Covered.

The areas covered will include, but are not limited to

American Literature I

- Native American literature
- *The Crucible*
- The Puritans
- *The Scarlet Letter*
- Various works by Edgar Allan Poe
- *Moby Dick*

American Literature II

- Modern American Literature
- *Great Gatsby*
- *To Kill A Mockingbird*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- Various poetry
- Various Short Stories