

COURSE PROFICIENCY OUTLINE

MODERN AMERICAN LITERATURE - 2124

College Prep

5 Credits

Purpose

Modern American Literature is an alternative course to English III. College-Prep and is therefore, taught at the same level for the college-bound junior. The purposes of English - 2124, Modern American Literature, are to survey contemporary American literature and to improve the student's skills in writing and reading comprehension so that the student will be better prepared for college and adult life. Emphasis in this college level course is placed on logical thinking, reading analysis and appreciation, free reading, composition, speaking, listening, viewing, media literacy, and improvement in vocabulary and oral expression. The literature is American, but focuses on modern writers and their works, and supplementary literature will vary with each class. A minimum of four book reports and a research paper are required.

- I. Student Outcomes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5
 - A. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, media literacy and study skills.
 - B. Students will learn how to access, examine, interpret and use information, including skillful use of dictionaries and other reference materials and the Internet, for practical purposes. Students will use the formal MLA format for documentation when writing research papers.
 - C. Students will develop skills in using vocabulary of increasing difficulty.
 - D. Students will link the literature, whenever possible, to our American heritage and thereby, develop a better understanding of themselves, of others, and of the world.
 - E. Students will exhibit the ability to listen logically and critically.
 - F. Students will demonstrate adequate proficiency in all aspects of oral presentation: organization, preparation, and effectiveness on the audience.
 - G. Students will collaborate by sharing ideas and insights through informal conversation and discussion.
 - H. Students will demonstrate the ability to read analytically and critically, as a means of developing knowledge and insight as a search for meaning, to enhance vocabulary, and to evaluate literature based on personal response and literary quality.
 - I. Students will examine and respond to print and non-print media, including but not limited to performing arts, film, television, newspapers, and artistic renderings.
 - J. Students will demonstrate proficiency in writing a variety of written responses for different purposes and audiences by using appropriate prewriting strategies - outlining, brainstorming, drafting, prewriting, and rewriting, peer-editing; additionally, students will exhibit the ability to use a variety of types of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive.
 - K. Students will use their language arts skills to think critically and logically. They will examine evidence, evaluate rationales and intent, ask appropriate questions, and make judgments - in relation to literature covered and in relation to future decision-making tasks.
 - L. Students will read and respond to a broad range of Modern American Literature and recognize various types of literature and basic elements of literature.

- M. Students will use a variety of technologies for learning such as videotaping and audio taping equipment.
- N. Students will utilize technology for literary tasks that will ultimately facilitate reading comprehension, and enhance vocabulary development and word processing.
- O. Students will learn the definition of plagiarism, types of plagiarism, how to cite material using MLA parenthetical documentation, and demonstrate their proficiency in formally citing and paraphrasing an outside source.

II. Content 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5

- A. Functional Grammar and Usage
 - 1. Variety in sentence structure
 - 2. Levels of usage
 - 3. Mechanics
 - 4. Parts of sentences
 - 5. Additional grammar as necessary
 - 6. Revising and editing techniques
- B. Composition
 - 1. Writing as a process
 - 2. Peer-Editing and revision
 - 3. Sentence structure and variety
 - 4. Study of the paragraph
 - 5. Study of the well-constructed response to an open-ended question
 - 6. Elements of the essay
 - 7. Written book reviews
 - 8. A research paper using the MLA format
 - 9. Study of the types of writing found on the HSPA (namely persuasive and writing to speculate)
 - 10. Letter Writing
 - 11. Forms (applications, insurance, etc.)
 - 12. Use of the computer lab
 - 13. Use of Turnitin.com for learning the importance of academic integrity in writing
 - 14. Learn the definition of plagiarism, types of plagiarism, when and how to cite material, study examples of proper and improper ways of citing material, and demonstrate the proper way to cite materials using the MLA format in order to avoid plagiarism
- C. Literature
 - 1. Types in text including short story, drama, poetry, non-fiction, novel.
 - 2. Selected works like Of Mice and Men, Death of a Salesman, The Jungle, or other supplementary novels.
 - 3. Reading comprehension skills as they relate to fiction and non-fiction literature in addition to including activities with various forms and vocational related materials.
- D. Vocabulary
 - 1. A study of vocabulary within the context of the literature which stresses the understanding of meaning from context, definition, spelling, pronunciation, roots, prefixes and suffixes.
 - 2. Vocabulary words directly related to vocations, business, jobs, life skills.
- E. Book Reviews
 - 1. Minimum of 4 books, including class study, both written and oral.
 - 2. Books subject to teacher approval and varied as to type (i.e., fiction, non-

fiction, drama) and number (beyond four).

- F. A research paper using the MLA format
- G. HSPA Preparation: Brief review of previous Reading and Writing samples.
- H. SAT Preparation using the SAT Online program for Language Arts skills proficiency and test-taking strategies

III. Activities and Materials

- A. Texts - Adventures in American Literature (Athena Ed.)
The Bedford Handbook
HSPA Workbooks
- B. Class Work
 - 1. Lectures, discussions, silent and oral reading, small group work, audio-visual materials, and regular tests and quizzes will be utilized.
 - 2. Skills such as reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, and media literacy will be stressed.
- C. Assignments
 - 1. Readings - text and other sources
 - 2. Written homework and compositions
 - 3. Book reviews (oral and written)
 - 4. Work will be graded and reviewed by teacher and students.
 - 5. A research paper using MLA format
 - 6. Use of the computer lab for writing and research
 - 7. SAT Preparation using the SAT Online program
 - 8. HSPA Preparation: Review of previous Reading and Writing samples
 - 9. Letter writing

IV. Evaluation

- A. Students are expected to attend all classes according to the attendance policy of Toms River Schools.
- B. Students will be expected to complete homework and class work learning assignments.
- C. Students will be expected to complete assigned book reviews and a research paper (using formal, MLA format). Failure to submit a required book report or research paper during any marking period will result in an F for that marking period, regardless of the student's previous grades.
- D. Students will demonstrate effective class participation when called upon to do so.
- E. Students will be expected to complete tests and quizzes successfully and a comprehensive final examination.
- F. Students will be expected to demonstrate an acceptable level of proficiency in all of the goals and objectives of the course within the previously defined content areas.
- G. Students will be expected to take care of school property.
- H. Students will be expected to be punctual, civil and courteous in class.
- I. Students will be expected to bring text, pencil, notebook and other materials given to them to class.
- J. The final grade represents the teacher's professional judgment of the student's performance and all of the aforementioned activities and/or requirements are included in the evaluative process.
- K. Students will be required to assume responsibility for work missed due to absence within a reasonable amount of time.
- L. Students are required to take and pass THE HSPA to meet graduation requirements.

M. Students are required to demonstrate academic honesty and integrity in all written work.

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