
English 11 Syllabus

Unit 1: Origins of American Tradition

- Unit Introduction
- Native American Spirituals
- De las Casas - from *The Very Brief Relation of the Devastation of the Indians*
- William Bradford - from *Of Plymouth Plantation*
- Anne Bradstreet - "To My Dear and Loving Husband"; "The Author to Her Book"; "For Deliverance from Fever"
- Edward Taylor – "Huswifery"
- Cotton Mather – *The Trial of Martha Carrier*
- Jonathan Edwards - from "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"; from *Resolutions*
- Play: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- PAPER: Comparison Paper: Compare and contrast the role of religion in the lives of the Puritans with the role of religion in the lives of 21st-Century Americans.
- Unit Test

Unit 2: The American Revolution

- Unit Introduction
- Benjamin Franklin - from *The Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin*
 - Project: Temperance Experiment
- Thomas Paine – from *The Crisis, No. 1*; from *Common Sense*
- Thomas Jefferson - *The Declaration of Independence*
 - Persuasive Essay activity
- Olaudah Equiano – from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa*
- Phyllis Wheatley – "On Being Brought from Africa to America"
- PAPER: Persuasive Essay: The Declaration of Independence is the vehicle that started this country on the path to freedom. The truths that Jefferson wrote of are the foundation on which our government was built. Do you believe those truths are still important in the lives of Americans today? Why or why not? Use examples to support your thesis.
- Unit Test

Unit 3: The New England Renaissance

- Unit Introduction
- Washington Irving – "Rip Van Winkle;" from *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne - "Young Goodman Brown;" "The Minister's Black Veil;" "The Ambitious Guest"

- Literary analysis: Analyze the symbolism used by Hawthorne in "Young Goodman Brown."
- Edgar Allan Poe - "The Pit and the Pendulum;" "The Strange System of Dr. Tarr and Professor Feather"
- Ralph Waldo Emerson – from *Nature*; from *Self-Reliance*
- Henry David Thoreau – selection from *Walden*
- *Moby Dick* – movie, Patrick Stewart and Henry Thomas version
- PAPER: Compare the use of symbolism by Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne in their works.
- Unit Test

Unit 4: New England Renaissance Poetry

- Unit Introduction
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – “The Cross of Snow;” “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls;” “The Village Blacksmith”
- Oliver Wendall Holmes – “The Chambered Nautilus;” “Old Ironsides”
- William Cullen Bryant – “Thanatopsis”
- Emily Dickinson study
 - Dickinson Poetry Project
- Walt Whitman study
- Edgar Allen Poe -- “The Conqueror Worm”
- PAPER: Compare and contrast the poetry of the Fireside Poets with that of Dickinson and Whitman. How did the styles change? How were they similar?
- Unit Test

Unit 5: Slavery and the Civil War

- Unit Introduction
- Frederick Douglass -- from *Narrative of a Life of an American Slave*
- Negro Spirituals and Code Songs
- The Lincoln Assassination poetry
- Ambrose Bierce – “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
- Stephen Crane – “A Mystery of Heroism”
- Unit Test

Unit 6: Westward Expansion

- Unit Introduction
- Mark Twain – from *Life on the Mississippi*
- Bret Harte – “Outcasts of Poker Flat”
- Kate Chopin – “A Respectable Woman;” “The Story of an Hour”
- Willa Cather – “A Wagner Matinee”
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman – “The Yellow Wallpaper”

- PAPER: Discuss the rise of women writers and characters happening during this time period. How were women portrayed in the stories of the time? What was happening historically to help bring about this change? How does this time period allow more female writers to become popular?
- Unit Test

Unit 7: Modern Poetry

- Unit Introduction
- Robert Frost – “Mending Wall”
- Edward Arlington Robinson – “Richard Cory;” “Miniver Cheevy”
- Edgar Lee Masters – “Lucinda Matlock”
- Carl Sandburg – “Grass”
- William Carlos Williams – “Red Wheelbarrow;” “This Is Just to Say”
- Harlem Renaissance
- PAPER: Compare modern poetry with that of New England Romantic poetry. How has it changed? What author(s) caused this change to occur? How? What elements of his/their poetry remain in modern poetry? Explain.
- Unit Test

Unit 8: Modern Fiction

- Unit Introduction
- Jack London – “To Build a Fire”
- Ernest Hemingway – “A Day’s Wait;” “A Clean, Well-lighted Place;” “In Another Country”
- John Steinbeck – from *The Grapes of Wrath*; “The Chrysanthemums;” from *Travels with Charlie*
- William Faulkner – “A Rose for Emily”
- Play: Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman*
- PAPER: Literary Analysis: Explain Steinbeck’s use of symbolism in “Chrysanthemums” to show the growth and change of the main character Elisa.
- Unit Test

Unit 9: Contemporary Literature

- *Alas, Babylon*
- Unit Project