
English 11 Honors Syllabus

Unit 1: The 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.
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Two: 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 was 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.
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Three: New England Renaissance

- Unit Introduction
- Washington Irving – "Rip Van Winkle;" from *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

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- Nathaniel Hawthorne - "Young Goodman Brown;" "The Minister's Black Veil"; "The Ambitious Guest;" *The Scarlet Letter*
 - Literary analysis: Analyze the symbolism used by Hawthorne in "Young Goodman Brown."
- Mock Trial for *Scarlet Letter*
- 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 – selections from *Walden*
- Herman Melville – selections from *Moby Dick*
- *Moby Dick* – movie, Patrick Stewart and Henry Thomas version
- PAPER: Choose one of the works read during this unit. Discuss how it fit into the literary time period. Was it Transcendentalist or Romantic? Explain. How does this literature differ from that of the Puritans and of the Neoclassicists?
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Four: New England Renaissance Poetry

- Unit Introduction
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – "The Cross of Snow;" "Tide Rises, 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: Choose either Dickinson or Whitman and discuss their respective styles. How were they different from the Fireside Poets? In what ways? Use examples to illustrate your points.
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Five: Slavery and the Civil War

- Unit Introduction
- Frederick Douglass -- from *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave*
- Negro Spirituals and Code Songs
- The Lincoln Assassination poetry

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- Ambrose Bierce – “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
- Stephen Crane – “A Mystery of Heroism”
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Six: Frontiers

- Unit Introduction
- Mark Twain – from *Life on the Mississippi*
- Kate Chopin – “A Respectable Woman;” “The Story of an Hour;” *The Awakening*
- Literary Analysis: Analyze *The Awakening* from a Feminist, Psychoanalytic, or Deconstructive perspective.
- Willa Cather – *My Antonia*
 - PAPER: Discuss Cather’s use of symbolism and imagery in the novel.
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman – “The Yellow Wallpaper”
- Edith Wharton – *Ethan Frome*
 - PAPER: Why do you believe Hollywood decided to have Ethan and Mattie consummate their affair in the movie, while Wharton leaves the extent of the affair more to the reader’s imagination? Explain.
- 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?
- Brette Harte: “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Seven: Modern Poetry

- Unit Introduction
- Robert Frost – “Mending Wall”
- Edwin 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: Choose one of the Modern Poets and discuss his or her style, subject matter, and impact on poetry. By whom was he or she influenced? What made him or her stand out from the rest? Explain. You will need to do research and provide examples to support your thesis.
- Essay Unit Test

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Unit Eight: 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 how Steinbeck uses symbolism in “Chrysanthemums” to show the growth and change of the main character Elisa.
- PAPER: Discuss the use of the Cain and Able story in Steinbeck’s *East of Eden*.
- Essay Unit Test

Unit Nine: Modern Novel

- John Steinbeck – *East of Eden*