Denair Charter Academy
Course Outline

Course Title: American Literature
Grade Level: 9- 12
Elective/Required: Elective
Length/Credits: One year/ 10 credits
Prerequisites: None

I. Course Description:

Students will study the work of American writers as they fall into various categories: romanticism, transcendentalism, realism, naturalism, and symbolism. The genres of the novel, short story, poetry, drama, and non-fiction works such as histories, political essays, speeches, sermons, etc., will be used as vehicles for study of these schools in the course. Students will present their ideas in various modes of discourse, such as essays, class discussion, projects, etc.

II. Instructional Materials

Required Text:
American Literature, AGS 1999

Supplementary Texts:
The Scarlet Letter
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
The Great Gatsby
Farewell to Arms
Streetcar Named Desire

III. Course Outline

A. Colonial Period – 1620-1849
B. Inspiration of New England: 1837-1860
C. Local Color in America: 1849-1889
D. Harvest of Realism and Naturalism: 1890-1908
E. American Literature: 1905-1940
F. Modern Times: 1940-1970
G. Contemporary American Literature: 1971- Present

IV. Expectations for Student Learning

READING COMPREHENSION

2.0 READ AND UNDERSTAND GRADE LEVEL APPROPRIATE MATERIALS. (LITERARY & INFORMATIONAL)

First Semester: Benchmarks

1.2 Apply knowledge of roots of words to draw inferences of meaning of science and math terms.
1.3 Discern meaning of analogies and analyze comparisons, relationships and inferences.
2.2 Recognize how clarity of meaning is affected by organization and word choice in the text.
2.4 Make warranted and reasonable assertions about the author's arguments by using elements of the text to defend and clarify interpretations.

Second Semester: Benchmarks

1.3 Discern the meaning of analogies, analyzing comparisons, relationships, and inferences.
2.2 Analyze how clarity of meaning is affected by organization and word choice in the text.
2.5 Identify implicit and explicit philosophical assumptions.

LITERARY RESPONSE AND WRITING APPLICATION

3.0 & 2.0 READ AND RESPOND IN WRITING TO HISTORICALLY OR CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT WORKS OF LITERATURE (FICTION OR NON FICTION)

First Semester: Benchmarks

2.2a Demonstrate an understanding of the significant ideas in passages or works.
3.2 Use textual evidence to show how a theme or meaning represents a view or comment on life.

Second Semester: Benchmarks

2.2b Show how a passage or work uses imagery, language, and universal themes in unique ways.
2.2c Support important ideas through accurate and detailed references to the text.
2.2d Demonstrate an understanding of the author's use of stylistic devices for effects created.
3.3 Analyze use of irony, tone, mood, and sound of language to achieve rhetorical or aesthetic purposes.

<u>WRITING STRATEGIES</u>:

1.0 WRITE A COHERENT, AND FOCUSED TEXT THAT CONVEYS A WELL-DEFINED PERSPECTIVE AND TIGHTLY-REASONED ARGUMENT.

First Semester: Benchmarks
ORGANIZATION AND FOCUS

1.1 Demonstrate understanding of purpose, speaker, form and audience in writing (narrative, descriptive).
1.2 Use point of view, characterization, and style for specific purposes in writing.
1.3 Structure ideas in a sustained and convincing manner with support and examples.
1.7 Use systematic strategies to organize and record information
1.9 Revise text to emphasize voice, variety, style, meaning, and tone with purpose and audience in mind.

Second Semester: Benchmarks
ORGANIZATION AND FOCUS

1.1 Demonstrate understanding of purpose, speaker, form and audience in writing (persuasive, expository).
1.2 Use point of view, characterization, and style for specific purposes in writing.
1.3 Structure arguments in a sustained and persuasive manner with support and examples.
1.7 Use systematic strategies to organize and record researched information.
1.9 Revise text to emphasize voice, variety, style, meaning, and tone with purpose and audience in mind.

<u>LISTENING AND SPEAKING</u>:

1.0 FORMULATE VALID JUDGMENTS ABOUT ORAL COMMUNICATION.

First Semester: Benchmarks

2.3a Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the significant ideas of text.
3.4 Analyze ways in which authors use poetic devices: imagery, personification, figures of speech, etc. through oral interpretation.

Second Semester: Benchmarks

2.0 Deliver polished formal and extemporaneous presentations.

V. Instructional Methods

A. Teacher demonstration
B. Modeling
C. Individual projects
D. Peer response

VI. Assessment and Evaluations

Tests
Essays
Projects
Cooperative presentations
Teacher evaluation

VII. Grading Policy

100 - 90% = A
89 - 80% = B
79 - 70% = C
69 - 60% = D
59 - 0% = F