

American Literature (English)

Required – Year – 11

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

American Literature is a survey course that introduces students to various genres of literature from different historical and cultural perspectives. A strong emphasis is placed on evaluating the theme, plot, and characterization of literature on the basis of Christian principles. Since the ability to persuade is one of the most helpful skills which students will make use of in their adult lives, the persuasive essay is studied in detail also.

Course Goal

The Christian teacher will:

1. Guide students to use God's Word to evaluate literature of various types.
2. Promote the application of the lessons learned in literature to one's life.
3. Model a love of and an appreciation for literature.
4. Teach the psychology of argument and its use in persuasive essays.
5. Incorporate the necessary writing, thinking, speaking, and literary skills.
6. Encourage intellectual growth.
7. Reveal the quality and quantity of American literature.

Course Objectives

The student should be able to:

1. Evaluate literature from a Christian perspective, holding it to the light of God's Word.
2. Judge the quality, accuracy, and value of literature.
3. Apply the themes and lessons of literature to his life and grow from them.
4. Discuss moral values and issues in literature from a Christian perspective and thereby grow in faith.
5. Gain a better perspective of the place of American literature in the world.
6. Appreciate our country's heritage of fine literature.
7. Grow intellectually according to his God-given talents.
8. Understand the influence of history, social issues, literary vogue, and personal experience on literature.
9. Gain a working knowledge of literary terms and devices.
10. Understand and use the psychology of argument and the principles of the formal essay in producing persuasive essays.
11. Speak and write correctly, clearly, and articulately.

Course Outline

- I. Review Sentence Structure
- II. Review the Expository Paragraph
- III. The Psychology of Argument and the Persuasive Essay
- IV. Utilitarian Writing (1500-1800)
- V. Romantic Writing (1800-1865)
- VI. Novel One
- VII. Local Color Writing (1865-1900)
- VIII. Novel Two
- IX. Realism Part One (1900-1940)
- X. Novel Three
- XI. Poetry Part One (1900-1940)
- XII. Realism Part Two (1940-1980)
- XIII. Novel Four
- XIV. Poetry Part Two (1940-1980)
- XV. Modern Literature
- XVI. Novel Five

Instructional Strategies

The course will be taught using a variety of approaches including lecture, group discussion, small and large group critique, cooperative activities, research, and video presentations.

Materials

3-ring binder or notebook, pen, pencil, dictionary, thesaurus

Classroom Procedures

All students are expected to behave in an appropriate Christian manner. Students are responsible for missed assignments. Make-up work should be completed in a timely fashion. Failure to bring necessary materials may result in a "tardy". Participation in class discussions is imperative.