

# American Literature Course Overview

2007-2008

Schwartz

## Course Objectives:

- Develop accurate, perceptive reading through close study of major texts representing various genres in American Literature.
- Acquire a fluent, precise writing style through the preparation of essays about the texts
- Generate independent, thoughtful, and analytical discourse during class discussions.

## Course Overview:

### Unit 1 Puritan Period

#### *Major authors:*

- Jonathan Edwards
- Anne Bradstreet
- Elizabeth Barret Browning
- Arthur Miller (although Miller is a modern playwright, we will be studying “The Crucible” which is set during the Puritan Period of American history.)

### Unit 2 Revolutionary Literature in the Age of Reason

#### *Major authors:*

- Benjamin Franklin
- Thomas Paine
- Thomas Jefferson
- Patrick Henry

## **Unit 3 Romanticism and Transcendentalism**

*Major authors:*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Henry David Thoreau

## **Unit 4 Realism during the Post Civil War**

*Major authors:*

- Frederick Douglass
- Mark Twain
- Ambrose Bierce
- Stephen Crane
- Kate Chopin

## **Unit 5 American Poetry Part 1**

*Major poets:*

- Walt Whitman
- Emily Dickinson
- Robert Frost
- Paul Laurence Dunbar
- Edna St. Vincent Millay

## **Unit 6 Southern Literature and American Gothic**

*Major authors:*

- William Faulkner
- Eudora Welty
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Flannery O'Conner
- Zora Neale Hurston
- Tennessee Williams

## **Unit 7 The Harlem Renaissance**

*Major authors:*

- Langston Hughes
- Richard Wright
- James Baldwin
- Countee Cullen

## **Unit 8 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature and The American Short Story**

*Major Authors*

- Willa Cather
- Amy Tan
- Tim O'Brien
- Anne Tyler
- Alice Walker
- Sandra Cisneros

- Jamaica Kincaid
- William Least Heat Moon
- Ernest Hemmingway
- Truman Capote

## Unit 9 American Poetry Part 2

*Major poets:*

- Theodore Roethke
- Elizabeth Bishop
- Gwendolyn Brooks
- Maya Angelou
- Richard Wilbur
- Adrienne Rich
- Sylvia Plath
- Anne Sexton
- Julia Alvarez
- e.e. cummings
- Ezra Pound
- William Carlos William
- Carl Sandburg
- Wallace Stevens
- T.S. Eliot