

Syllabus - American Literature & Writing CP- 23.716
Mr. Scirocco
2008-2009

Goals: During this course, you will learn to:

- n Discover the power and magic of words;
- n Learn to value reading, thinking, writing, and discussion;
- n Identify and explain the experiences and diverse traditions of American Literature;
- n Identify and explain recurring themes dealt with by American writers;
- n Interpret selections and identify characteristics of various literary periods and styles;
- n Interpret selections by identifying characteristics of major American writers;
- n Apply interpretation skills to the analysis of new materials;
- n Write as a means of learning;
- n Write expository, narrative, critical, and imaginative papers;
- n Use the process of pre-writing, drafting, revision, proofreading, and conferencing to develop writing skills;
- n Extend your oral and written vocabulary while practicing standardized test-taking techniques;
- n Study and apply rules of American grammar, usage, and punctuation;
- n Identify and interpret our own place in the American experience.

Activities: In order to achieve these objectives, you will:

- n Read, discuss and do written assignments on selections from *The Elements of Literature- Fifth Course – The Essentials of the American Experience* and various handouts;
- n Write essays, narratives, poetry, journals, responses based on personal experience, imagination, and literature;
- n Complete exercises and take tests on Units 1-9 of *Vocabulary Workshop Level F*, during the first semester and units 10- 15 during the second semester;
- n Study *Grammar for Writing –Level Green* and take grammar tests as needed; apply rules of grammar to your own writing
- n Create a multigenre project that involves the use of technology
- n Revise formal papers through individual conference time and peer review;
Keep a writer’s notebook and take notes on class lectures, discussion, and audiovisual aids;
- n In addition to books assigned for summer reading, read, discuss, and write about the following:

<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>2nd Semester</u>
<i>Our Town</i>	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
<i>The Education of Little Tree</i>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
<i>The Crucible</i>	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
<i>A Separate Peace</i>	<i>Catcher in the Rye/Open Boat</i>
<i>Great American Short Stories</i>	<i>The Death of a Salesman</i>
<i>Into the Wild</i>	<i>Other selected texts each semester</i>

Evaluation:

- 30% Essays/Projects (Major essays will factor 2-3 times more than first drafts and in-class essays.)
- 30% Tests/Notebook
- 10% Quizzes and Daily Work
- 10% Participation
- 20% of your grade will be based on the final exam;
- Late assignments will receive a letter grade reduction for each day late.

Discipline: Students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the Student Handbook

I have read the syllabus and understand the expectations of the course. I understand the disciplinary standards for this class have been set forth in the Student Handbook

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____