

## English III

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." ~ Declaration of Independence

This course explores American literature and the pursuit of the American Dream. Students will examine the roots of American literature in religion and faith, relive a revolution of rebellion and conformity, redefine truth and human potential, and develop a deeper sense of self. Through an exploration of classic American themes and ideals, students will deepen their awareness of political and social influences that have shaped American culture as it is known today. Selections of literature range from poetry and fiction (short stories, novellas, drama) to nonfiction (speeches, sermons, letters, journals, news articles). Not only will students think about literature and its connection to their lives--they will also learn to question the beliefs and ideas that have informed American literature throughout the country's sometimes harmonious, sometimes volatile history.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Explore Puritanism, Transcendentalism, and other literary periods framing the work of American writers.
- Use reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to understand a variety of texts, including biographical sketches, fiction, poetry, speeches, and diary entries.
- Understand how language, historical events, literary periods, personal perception, and cultural context shape the meaning of a text
- Make connections between life and literature, explore identity, and ponder intriguing philosophical questions through analytical reading, questioning, listening and writing
- Understand and apply the steps to clear, logical writing (prewriting, drafting, and revising) to compose a variety of texts, including fiction, expository essays, persuasive essays, and autobiographical pieces for authentic audiences
- Evaluate both fiction and nonfiction literary works by writing a literary analysis, an interpretive essay, or an evaluative essay.
- Prepare multimedia presentations that demonstrate knowledge of visual design, technology and audience awareness.
- Recognize vocabulary words and know how to find the meaning of unfamiliar words

**PREREQUISITES:** English 2

**COURSE LENGTH:** Two Semesters

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

**REQUIRED MATERIALS** - To meet objectives of the course and high school Language Arts standards of speaking and listening, students participating in this course should have access to Youtube. In addition, students must be able to listen to and watch streaming video and audio; and will need access to a microphone and/or digital video and software to record .mp3 or .avi files.

**COURSE OUTLINE:****Semester 1:****Unit 1 - The American Dream**

Section A - Daring to Dream

Section B - Skepticism and Belief in the American Dream

Section C - Religion and Faith

Section D - Language and Thought

**Unit 2 - Reflections in American Literature**

Section A - The Freedom to Dream

Section B - The Freedom to Choose

Section C - The Chains of Freedom

Section D - The Path to Enlightenment

**Unit 3 - Poetry in America**

Section A - Freedom Beyond the Age of Reason

Section B - Self-Knowledge and Identity

Section C - Innocence and Experience: Defining the Self

Section D - The Romantic American Identity

**Unit 4 - Drama and the American Dream**

Section A - The Reality of the American Dream

Section B - The American Dream: Choice or Obligation

Section C - Choice, Obligation and Responsibility – A Dream Deferred

Section D - Reality of the American Dream Revisited

**Unit 5: My Country, Myself**

Section A - Equality and Integrity of Dreams

Section B - Truth and Appearance of Drama

Section C – The American Dream: Material or Immaterial

Section D - Presenting Your American Literature Newsletter

**Semester 1 Exam****Semester 2:****Unit 6 - The Art of Persuasion**

Section A - Speaking and Listening—An Introduction

Section B - The Art of Debate

Section C - Investigations in Persuasive Communication

Section D - Persuasive Speaking and Writing

**Unit 7 - Media and Its Impact on History**

Section A - Types of Media

Section B - Evaluating Media

Section C - Media's Impact on Opinion

Section D - My Media Project

**Unit 8 - Contemporary Issues in American Communication**

Section A - Contemporary Media in America

Section B - Contemporary Messages in Print

Section C - Assessing Contemporary Messages in Communication

Section D - Independent Exploration of Messages in the Media

**Unit 9 - Communication in the Workplace**

Section A - Skills for Finding a Job

Section B - Going to Work



Section C - Communicating at Work

Section D - Written and Verbal Work Communication

**Unit 10 - Independent Project**

Section A - Exploring, Planning, and Researching a Topic

Section B - Organizing Your Writing and Composing Your Drafts

Section C - Revising and Editing

Section D - Publishing

**Semester 2 Exam**