



English 11 Course Syllabus

Course Description:

English 11, part 1, is all about American literature. We begin with a fictionalized autobiography called *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, then traveling back in time to check out some foundational documents written at the time of America's creation, then move on to some famous short stories and the novel *The Scarlett Letter*; and conclude with some great speeches.

Part 1: 5 credit hours

Part 2: 5 credit hours

Course Outline

Common Core Standards

English 11, Part 1

Unit 1 - The Autobiographical Novel

- 1.1 Sherman Alexie - *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
- 1.2 The Power of Images
- 1.3 The Power of Point of View
- 1.4 Bildungsroman
- 1.5 The Necessity of Conflict
- 1.6 Motifs, Symbols, and Theme

In this unit, we will examine the factors that shape our identities. How art helps the individual deal with adversity and create an identity. We will discuss whether it is possible to be yourself and part of a group—even if you don't identify with parts of that group, and what the expectations are placed on us by our communities. How do we rise above others' expectations in order to live the lives we want to live? We will read Sherman Alexie's autobiographical novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is both funny and sad. We will assign multiple chapters for each lesson.

(RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.4, RL.11-12.6, RL.11-12.10, RI.11-12.7, L.11-12.5, L.11-12.5.A)

Unit 2 - Language and Purpose in Foundational Texts

- 2.1 Language History
- 2.2 Claims of Policy
- 2.3 Purpose and Evidence
- 2.4 Purpose, Diction, and Audience
- 2.5 Purpose and Allusion

In this unit, we will examine three of the greatest argumentative documents in American history: the Declaration of Independence, the Declaration of Sentiments, and Martin Luther King's "Letter From a Birmingham Jail." The focus will be on both the history or politics of these documents and on their language and structure. Each makes numerous claims in the hopes of persuading the audience to be stirred into the action the document desires, and each, obviously, succeeded. But how did they do it? We will examine language and evidence as it relates to author purpose, and also learn about the different types of claims authors employ, differentiating between facts, values, and policies.

(RI.11-12.2, RI.11-12.3, RI.11-12.4, RI.11-12.5, RI.11-

12.6, RI.11-12.8, RI.11-12.9, RI.11-12.10, L.11-12.1, L.11-12.2, L.11-12.5.A)

Unit 3 - American Literary Movements and the Short Story

- 3.1 American Romanticism
- 3.2 The Dark Side of Romanticism
- 3.3 Edgar Allan Poe- *The Fall of the House of Usher*
- 3.4 Making it Real: Romanticism Gives Way to Realism
- 3.5 Realism and Naturalism
- 3.6 Modern Minimalism

In this unit, we will examine stories that are distinctly American in nature, reflecting their society's priorities and values, and come to understand the difference between the literary movements known as Romanticism, Dark Romanticism or Gothic, Realism, Naturalism, and Modernism.

Like so many of America's greatest cultural exports, the modern short story, it has been said, "grew out of necessity rather than luxury." What does that mean, exactly? Well, around the turn of the 19th Century, the United States was a rapidly growing country with its ambitious pioneers heading west in pursuit of opportunity, and with everyone literally on the move, nobody had the time or patience to read what those sedentary folks in Europe read: serialized novels. Hence, short stories.

(RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.5, RL.11-12.9, RL.11-12.10, L.11-12.4)

Unit 4 - Analyzing Literature

- 4.1 Analyzing Literature
- 4.2 Supporting Claims with Textual Evidence
- 4.3 Identity & Isolation- Theme analysis in a literary text
- 4.4 Cancel Culture- Then & Now
- 4.4 Nathaniel Hawthorne- *The Scarlet Letter*

In this unit, we will read a renowned novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*. In this novel, Hawthorne explores the themes of guilt, compassion, isolation, identity, and hypocrisy as they play out in seventeenth-century Puritan New England. Critical of the relationship between religion and law in Puritan society, Hawthorne raises questions about the society and its treatment of the individuals that are still applicable to today's society. We will focus on analyzing literature using literary devices and literary theory. We will practice developing a literary analysis in response to text, supporting that analysis with textual evidence, and explaining and connecting your textual evidence back to a claim.

(RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.5, RL.11-12.10, W.11-12.1.A, W.11-12.1, W.11-12.1.B, W.11-12.1.E, W.11-12.7, W.11-12.9, L.11-12.4.D)

Unit 5 - Heroes Speak

- 5.1 The Three Appeals and the Rhetorical Question
- 5.2 Sojourner Truth - "Ain't I a Woman"
- 5.3 Epistrophe, Asyndeton, and Polysyndeton
- 5.4 The Gettysburg Address
- 5.5 Alliteration and Antithesis
- 5.6 John F. Kennedy Inaugural Address

In this unit, we focus on speeches--specifically, ones given by American leaders who, by any measure would be heroes, hence the unit title. We will analyze these documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features.

(RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.4, RI.11-12.5, RI.11-12.6, RI.11-12.8, RI.11-12.9, .RI.11-12.10)

