

Name of School:

Name of Course: **American Authors**

### Instructor Information

**Name:**  
**E-mail address:**  
**School phone number:**  
**Web page address:**  
**Best times to be reached:**

### Course Description

*American Authors* focuses on selected longer 19th and 20th century works of American authors, such as Hawthorne, Dickinson, Whitman, Twain, Fitzgerald, Frost, and Hansberry. Selected works reflect enduring concerns of the individual and society. Students read and study a combination of forms such as the novel, short story, poem, and drama leading to discussion, writing activities, and special projects.

### District Standards and Power Benchmarks

**Standard:** Students will apply reading, writing, and speaking skills to communicate effectively.

**Grade Level Benchmarks:**

- Students will be able to use text structure such as chronological order, cause and effect, compare and contrast, literary elements, and fact and opinion to aid comprehension of a variety of text formats and genres.
- Students will be able to determine meaning in literature by identifying and analyzing commonly used literary devices and elements.
- Students will know the characteristics and structure of a variety of literary genres.
- **Expert:** Students will be able to understand the specific literary style of the author and the effectiveness of techniques used to convey author's purpose and viewpoint.

### Course Information

*American Authors* is a junior/senior nine-week (one-term) course. Credit awarded upon successful completion of the course is .5. There are no prerequisites for this class, but it is strongly recommended that students successfully complete *English 9* first.

### **Course Outline/Calendar**

Students will read a variety of literature including essays, short stories, poetry, biographies, drama, and three novels. Four writing assignments will be completed using the writing process. Unit tests will be given. Students will be responsible for vocabulary and maintaining a course notebook. Quizzes may be given at any time. Academic vocabulary instruction is required.

### **Text/Other Required Materials/Resources**

- *American Literature: A Chronological Approach*
- *The Scarlet Letter*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- Notebook
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pen, pencil

### **Additional Texts/Materials/Resources**

### **Instructional Procedures & Support**

1. A variety of teaching methods and strategies will be used, e.g., direct instruction, cooperative groups, graphic organizers, note taking, and framing.
2. Students will receive verbal and written instructions for major assignments.
3. Students may come in for additional assistance before or after school. A time should be arranged with the teacher in advance.
4. After an absence, students are responsible for checking with the instructor about make-up work and deadlines. A time should be arranged with the teacher.

## Classroom Management Procedures

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## Assessment Plan

Students' grades are based on points earned through daily assignments, quizzes, worksheets, notebooks, writing assignments, exams, and class participation. Points are converted to percentages, which fall within the Davenport Community Schools' grading scale.

<b>QUARTER</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>	<b>END OF QUARTER</b>
Quarter 1	Tuesday, Sep. 25, 2007	Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007
Quarter 2	Friday, Nov. 30, 2007	Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008
Quarter 3	Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008	Friday, Mar. 21, 2008
Quarter 4	Wednesday, Apr. 30, 2008	Tuesday, Jun. 3, 2008

## Grading System

Grades are determined on a cumulative point system, which is then converted to a percentage. The Davenport Community Schools' district percentage grading scale is as follows:

- A: 92 – 100%
- B: 83 – 91%
- C: 68 – 82%
- D: 60 – 67%
- F: 59% and below