

Name of School:

Name of Course: **American Readings**

Instructor Information

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

Course Description

American Readings provides students the opportunity to read a wide range of literature reflecting America's multicultural heritage. The course incorporates study of such topics as authors, background, themes, and language. This course requires active involvement of readers through selection of literature, independent reading, and regular oral and written response to selections read.

District Standards and Power Benchmarks

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

Grade Level Benchmarks:

- 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.
- Determine meaning in literature by identifying and analyzing commonly used literary devices and elements.
- Know the characteristics and structure of a variety of literary genres.
- **Expert:** Understand the specific literary style of the author and the effectiveness of techniques used to convey author's purpose and viewpoint.

Course Information

American Readings is a nine-week (one-term) course. Upon successful completion, .5 credit is given, which satisfies the 11th or 12th grade American Literature requirement. There are no prerequisites for this class, but it is strongly recommended that students successfully complete *English 9* and *Speech* first.

Course Outline/Calendar

Units:

- Required academic vocabulary instruction
- Early Americans
- Puritans
- Visions of Darkness
- Songs of Self
- Fields of Battle

Major Assignments and Projects:

- Essays related to readings
- Notebook entries with responses to readings, vocabulary, and literary terms
- Two (minimum) projects or presentations on authors, themes, or works of interest
- Tentative Reading List attached

Text/Other Required Materials/Resources

Literature and Language text

Instructional Procedures & Support

- A variety of teaching techniques including cooperative groups, Socratic discussions, reflective writing, QARs, Frame, Read-Alouds, and silent reading will be used.
- Students are expected to actively participate in daily discussions and complete all reading and writing assignments on time.
- Students will receive verbal and written instructions for major assignments.
- Homework will include independent reading, writing, and preparation for the major projects. Students who need to make up missed work are expected to arrange to come in before or after school for help. Arrangements need to be made with the instructor.

Classroom Management Procedures

Assessment Plan

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

QUARTER	MIDTERM	END OF QUARTER
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