



**GRACE CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**
of Temecula Valley
Private School Satellite

High School Course Description
(One per course)
SAMPLE

Student Name: John Paperwork

Start Date: 9/2/2025 **End Date:** 6/5/2026

Course Length (Semester or One Year): One Year

Course Title: American Literature and Composition

Course Description:

This class gives an overview on many of America's most celebrated authors. Students will read a variety of poetry, short stories, novellas, and stage plays as they gain an appreciation for literature as well as examine the texts for themes in American history and culture. Beginning from 1865 to the present day, there will be a wide range of authors and topics covered, including literary movements, civil rights, feminism, pulp and genre, Christian faith, and more. The writing component encourages students to explore topics that interest them and practice writing in various essay styles, from expository, to persuasive, to compare and contrast. If combined with U.S. History, this course will provide numerous authors of different styles that further deepen a student's cultural understanding of American since 1865.

Course Learning Objectives:

- *Gain knowledge and appreciation for many of America's most celebrated authors since 1865.
- *Become more aware of movements and important figures surrounding the literary world as well as American history and culture.
- * Have a clear understanding of the basic essay formats, what defines them, and the ability to write one in confidence.

Students will be evaluated by:

- *Quiz performance on the readings alongside their engagement in class discussions. This includes being able to recall events from the readings, asking poignant questions, and showing an active interest in the course topics.
- * Through three essays of various types. They will choose their own topics from the readings, and will discuss them in greater depth for their essay assignments.

Grading Categories and Breakdown (percentages or points) & Grading Scale Used:

55% -Participation (20% -Attendance and active interest in Class Discussions; 35% -Reading Quizzes): This class has a heavy emphasis on active reading. In class, there will be a short quiz concerning the events of the readings, followed by an open discussion classroom where the more analytical thinking and reflection can take place.

45% -Essays (15% -Descriptive, 15% -Narrative, 15% -Expository): There are 3 essays for the course, each of which emphasize a different approach to composition. Essay assignments will be discussed in class, and students will have the option to choose or invent prompts that encourage them to write on subjects relating to the course content that interest them. Essays will be reviewed by instructor and may be revised upon request.

Curriculum Title or Teacher Planned:

Text: The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter 9th Edition – Vol. 2: 1865 to the Present Edition:

9th Publisher: Norton Date Published: 2017

Other Materials Used:

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald [Fall]
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck [Spring]
- The Old Man and the Sea by Earnest Hemingway [Spring]