

**Trinity Catholic High School**  
**Department of English**

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<b>Course Syllabus: English 11</b> <b>American Literature</b> <b>2006-2007</b>
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Course Description

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This course will survey American Literature from the early settlers of the United States to the literature written by 21<sup>st</sup> century authors. Each of the works examined in this course offers the perspective of a writer who reflects the historical, religious, artistic, philosophical, and political views that existed during the formation of our country. Students will gain a deep comprehension of the way that authors use their writing to both understand and reveal national, subcultural, and personal identity, morality, and the concept of American life in a nation continuously under expansion and transition.

Required Texts

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Glencoe. *American Literature*.  
*MLA Documentation Workbook*.  
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*.  
Fitzgerald, F.Scott. *The Great Gatsby*.  
Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Required Materials

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- One loose-leaf notebook (binder) and paper. Leave plenty of room for handouts. You should separate your binder into the following sections: vocabulary/SAT prep, class notes, assignments/essays, and quizzes/tests.
- Journal (bxw composition book)
- Dark blue or black pens, pencils, highlighter
- Optional: 3-hole punch for handouts, dictionary

Course Overview:

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This course exposes students to the evolution of American literature and how it affects our thinking and beliefs in the twenty-first century. We will explore the historical context of American literature by analyzing many different types of literary forms, including the drama, short story, speech, essay, and poem.

In addition to completing the required reading, homework and paper assignments, quizzes and tests, you will be asked to complete the following:

*Writing Portfolio:* You will be required to write critical essays and original pieces for your writing portfolio every two weeks.

*SAT Packets:* These packets will be assigned on a weekly basis. These packets will include but are not limited to vocabulary, analogies, reading comprehension, and the timed five-paragraph essay. You will be quizzed on these packets weekly.

*Journal:* You will be asked on a daily basis to reflect in depth about the material and class discussions that you will experience this year. I expect you to write clear, substantial reactions to the material, demonstrating that you have read the text carefully and have mulled over some of its most important points.

*Research Papers:* You will be required to write TWO research papers throughout this course. The first paper will be assigned during second term and will be due before Christmas vacation. The second paper will be assigned during fourth term and will be due before final exams. Both papers must follow MLA standards.

## Evaluation

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The grading scale for this class is in accordance with the scale in the handbook on page 15. Grades will be assessed on a point system, with points given for homework, classwork, tests and quizzes, and papers and projects. A final exam will be given at the end of each semester worth 20% of the semester grade.

## Classroom Policies and Procedures

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*It is important to me that I have a respectful and amicable relationship with you and that you seek this kind of relationship with each other and with me. I will support you and ask that you be the same with your classmates and me. Here are my expectations:*

Class starts on time. If you are late and have no excuse, be prepared to make up the time outside of class.

Bellwork: Each day will begin with a prayer offered by a student, followed by a timed journal topic based on the material and class discussions you will experience this year. I will be collecting and evaluating your journal periodically throughout each term.

Bathroom Policy: No student will be given permission to use the bathroom during a lesson. Each student may use the bathroom once per month during individual work only. In the case of an *emergency* (illness, uncontrollable coughing fit) you may use the restroom after alerting me. *If you use the bathroom more than once per month, you will*

*be required to make up the class time you missed after school on the day of use. No exceptions – choose your emergencies wisely!*

Assignments: Homework is due at the BEGINNING of class on the due date. Homework will be considered late if you do not have it in class. Students will not be allowed to go to their locker once the bell has rung. I will not accept homework passed in at the end of class. An assignment passed in the day after it is due will be accepted for a maximum of half-credit. After that, I will not accept it and the assignment will be a zero. Major papers will drop an entire grade for each late day after the due date (i.e., an “A” quality paper passed in the day after the due date will receive a maximum grade of “B”). All major assignments must be typed and submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). More information about [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) will be given in class. Make arrangements to access a computer and printer so that your work will be finished on time.

Make-up Work: No make-up work will be accepted for unexcused absences. For an excused absence, in accordance with school policy, you will generally have one day for each day missed to make up work and tests. After that, the same policy for late work (detailed under “Assignments”) is applied. It is your responsibility to find out about and make up all missed work. For extreme or extenuating circumstances, please see me outside of class.

Plagiarism: The stealing of ideas and/or words from another source and passing them off as your own will not be tolerated. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the student will receive a zero and the Dean will be notified.

Dress code violation will result in detention.

Extra Help / Academic Mandatory Study (AMS):

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Extra help will be offered during AMS on Mondays and Wednesdays. Any student with lower than a D will be required to attend AMS. Part of your grade will include a grade for AMS participation. Those students who are not required to attend will be exempt from this grade.

Goals for Quarter One:

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- Analyze the origins of Native American literature and the literature of European settlers, and examine the influence of Puritanism, Transcendentalism, and Democracy in early American writing.
- Gain a deep comprehension of historical events leading to the establishment of a new nation through literature.
- Strengthen writing skills with regular portfolio assignments and daily journal exercises.
- Solidify an understanding of literary terms through weekly practice.
- Practice SAT preparation skills weekly.