

**Course Title****SMHS**

American Literature A/B (11) (P)

**Description of Target Group**

This yearlong course, required to meet the district's graduation requirement, is designed for all students who have passed Introduction to Literature (9), (H), or (L2).

**Purpose**

This course is designed to complement the curriculum of United States History. Through a multi-text approach, students will read and write accessing themes which include individualism, the American Dream, social issues, as well as personal and human values. Critical writing and reading, listening and speaking skills will focus on using analytical and evaluative thinking. Both group and individual projects will be assigned. In addition, students will explore career and college information and opportunities to develop life-long learning skills.

**Standards of Expected Student Achievement**

Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate the following skills:

**READING**

A variety of genre from the literature of many world cultures will be read. Students will be expected to:

- read independently
- identify literary genre
- identify elements of literature
- paraphrase
- construct meaning from a text
- make connections within a text
- extend beyond a text
- include an element of risk taking in constructing meaning
- keep journal or log

Core selections include:

novel: The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger

drama: Glass Menagerie - Tennessee Williams

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Other possible selections include:

- novel:            Billy Budd - Herman Melville  
                      East of Eden - John Steinbeck  
                      The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck  
                      The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald  
                      Huckleberry Finn - Samuel Clemens
- drama:            Death of a Salesman - Arthur Miller  
                      Our Town - Thornton Wilder  
                      Inherit the Wind -

short story, poetry, essays: selections from the basic and supplementary texts

### WRITING

Students will be expected to demonstrate the following skills:

Rhetoric:

- present an idea; acknowledge an audience/reader
- use logic and relevant support/details
- state and develop an argument
- demonstrate coherence and style
- attempt an element of risk
- demonstrate improvement

Conventions:

- practice sentence variety
- use proper word choice/usage and vocabulary development
- demonstrate good mechanics
- improve spelling
- demonstrate improvement

Students will demonstrate the ability to write in the following types of discourse:

- interpretive
- evaluative
- speculation about causes and effects
- comparison and contrast

## RETRIEVING INFORMATION

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- use the library and computer catalog
- use the computer lab
- cite works using the MLA documentation
- document within a text using MLA format
- take notes

## GROUP/COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- participate effectively in class and small group discussions
- communicate information and ideas effectively to others
- respect others
- follow directions
- compromise and reach consensus
- be responsible
- show improvement in speaking and listening skills

## CAREER/JOB EDUCATION SKILLS

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- apply the results of the UNIACT or other interest inventory by
- reviewing Career Path placement
- writing a research or "I" search paper and/or
- researching specific careers and majors
- research educational opportunities beyond high school
- vocational/technical schools
- 2-year community colleges
- 4-year colleges and/or universities
- write or revise a resume or personal data sheet
- complete the application process for a technical school or college

## PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to complete the Portfolio Requirements as outlined on Page 4 of this course outline.

## **Instructional Materials**

Text and Supplementary Materials

Refer to: Secondary Adopted Texts and approved Supplementary Books used in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1.) Demonstrate reading comprehension/questioning competency in the following areas:

Any three (3):

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
A.) Read independently	_____	_____
B.) Construct meaning from a text	_____	_____
C.) Make connections within a text	_____	_____
D.) Extend beyond a text	_____	_____
E.) Take a risk in making connections/meaning	_____	_____
F.) Analyze literature symbolically & thermtically	_____	_____

Any one (1)

G.) Reading log	_____	_____
H.) Double entry journal	_____	_____

2.) Demonstrate writing skills in the following areas:

Any three (3):

A.) Autobiographical essay	_____	_____
B.) Reflective essay	_____	_____
C.) Narrative essay	_____	_____
D.) Descriptive essay	_____	_____
E.) Expository essay	_____	_____

3.) Demonstrate the following information retrieval skills:

A.) Works Cited/Bibliography using MLA	_____	_____
B.) Documentation using MLA format	_____	_____
C.) Note taking	_____	_____

4.) Demonstrate the following oral presentation skills:

A.) Effectively present an idea/project	_____	_____
B.) Show improvement in speaking skills	_____	_____

5.) Demonstrate the following career skills:

A.) Identify areas of career interests	_____	_____
B.) Match interests to specific careers	_____	_____