

# U.S. Literature

## *Mrs. Susan Cuvelier*

[scuvelier@dbqschools.org](mailto:scuvelier@dbqschools.org)

Phone: DSHS: 552-5500/ EXT. #5554

***“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” –Aristotle***

We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards.

Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide the students with a background of many influential American writers. Students will read plays, novels, short stories, and poetry by American authors spanning the birth of our nation to modern day America. Students will read Romanticism, Modernism, Post-Modernism, as well as contemporary works. Various writing assignments will accompany the works studied.

**Alignment to the Iowa Core:** *Instruction, learning, and assessment are built primarily on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core Reading, and Speaking and Listening Strands.*

### **IOWA CORE STANDARDS:**

#### **Standard 1: Reading Strand - Literature**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

#### **Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

#### **Standard 3: Writing**

**Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.**

#### **Standard 4: Speaking and Listening**

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

#### **Standard 5: Language**

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

### **Assessments:**

- Guide questions
- Reading and vocabulary quizzes
- Journal responses, Various writing assignments
- Projects and presentations
- Quizzes/ Unit tests/ Semester exam

**Content:** Short Stories, Poetry, Novels, Drama, Film, Documentary, Speeches, Biography, Autobiography, Essays, Famous Documents

**Instructional Strategies:**

- Projects and Presentations/ Technologically Supported
- Research
- Creative Writing
- Literary Analysis
- Peer Sharing/Editing
- Discussions

**Resources:**

**Textbook: Literature and the Language Arts: The American Tradition**

**Other Titles and Authors:**

*The Crucible* Arthur Miller  
*The Great Gatsby* F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*Moby Dick* Herman Melville

**Selections include but are not limited to works from the following authors:**

*Anne Bradstreet, Jonathon Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Abraham Lincoln, Kate Chopin, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, John F. Kennedy, Steve Jobs, J.K. Rowling, Shirley Jackson*

**EXPECTATIONS:**

**Materials**

Paper, pen and pencil, binder or folder, book, agenda, and completed homework

**Late Work**

There will be a reduction in points for late work.

**Make-up Work**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your make-up work. Please see me for any handouts / assignments you may have missed.

**Tardy Policy**

Please be in your desk before the bell rings. See your agenda for the school tardy policy. This will be strictly enforced.

**Grading Scale:**

A 93-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-77%	D 63-66%
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%
B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 59%

***Available for help:*** Schedule an appointment during the school day. I am also available before or after school if you make prior arrangements.