

American Literature Course Description

Tutor: Cindy Herndon

herndonz@yahoo.com 301-938-0918

Textbooks:

Prentice Hall: The American Experience ISBN: 0-13-698614-5 1989 edition. I currently have 2 copies for sale. Available online for under \$10.

American Literature Handbook, printed by Cindy Herndon and distributed at Back to School Night. Price: \$20.00

American Literature Flashcards: available from Cindy Herndon. Price: \$5.

The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway

The Great Gatsby, F.Scott Fitzgerald

Course Outline:

We will read 90% of the text book, omitting only The Red Badge of Courage. I supplement the text with novels that reinforce the themes and style of the various periods. The course is taught in chronological order beginning with the Native Americans and Puritans and ending with the Post-Modernists. Students are expected to memorize the authors presented in each period and each author's famous work, style, and theme. The flashcards are designed to help with that memorization.

Each unit will be covered and evaluated through lecture, discussion, imitation, test and/or essay and project.

Each week students will have to read about 75 pages. Students should be ready to discuss what they read. We go beyond plot and analyze structure, style, theme, and symbols.

The Scarlet Letter, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Old Man and the Sea, and The Great Gatsby are summer reading. Students should keep a character list while they are reading the novels and write chapter summaries. These novels will be RE-READ and discussed as they appear in chronological order.