



Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus
20th Century American Writers
1115



I. Course Description

20th Century American Writers 0.5 Credit (Semester 2) Grades 11, 12

20th Century American Writers is a course that will examine the fiction, nonfiction, poetry and dramas of the century through the literary movements of Realism and Naturalism and through various themes. Students will study a sampling of the literary works of the great writers of the century. Discussion will take place concerning these literary works, and students will write about them in lengthy analyses.

II. Materials & Equipment

Adventures in American Literature (various short stories, non-fiction, background)

American Dream Packet (teacher created – various poems and non-fiction)

Ethan Frome (class novel)

Various videos encompassing the genre

III. Course Goals & Objectives

Students will be able to

- a. Show the relationship between Literature/art and real life.
- b. Analyze, interpret, and draw inferences regarding the selections
- c. Think and write critically regarding the selections
- d. Demonstrate an understanding of realism and naturalism in literature
- e. Demonstrate an understanding of the American Dream in literature
- f. Demonstrate an understanding of the effects of wars, industrialism, and social change in Modern literature
- g. Identify irony, symbolism, characterization, point of view, stream of consciousness, and plot structure in 20th Century American literature

IV. Course Topics

Twentieth Century American Writers

I. Romanticism and the Move to Realism/Naturalism

II. Realism Video (*Shackleton/ Everest*)

III. Realistic and Naturalistic Authors

- a. Stephen Crane
- b. Jack London
- c. Willa Cather
- d. Edwin Arlington Robinson
- e. Edith Wharton (*Ethan Frome*)

IV. The American Dream

- a. Video
- b. Poems
- c. Non-fiction

V. Modern Fiction

- a. Katherine Anne Porter
- b. James Thurber
- c. F. Scott Fitzgerald
- d. Eudora Welty
- e. Flannery O'Connor
- f. John Updike

VI. Reading for Growth

VII. Culminating Activity/Final

V. Assignments & Grading

Objective Tests

Essay Tests

Essays/Articles

Compositions

Oral Presentations

Culminating Activity/Final