

American Literature and Composition is a two-semester course aligned to the English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) 9-12. The course examines the belief systems, events, and literature that have shaped the United States, including the language of independence and governmental systems developed by Thomas Jefferson and other Enlightenment thinkers, the Romantic and Transcendentalist emphasis on individual power and responsibility in both supporting and questioning government authority, and the Modernist examination of whether the American Dream remains achievable amid growing disillusionment with America as a "land of opportunity." Through works by authors like Lorraine Hansberry and Amy Tan, students analyze the experiences of marginalized groups and their struggles for equal rights. The course also explores how individuals cope with war and cultural tensions and examines technology's impact on the concepts of freedom and independence. Students develop critical thinking and communication skills through analytical essays, personal narratives, research papers, discussions, and speeches. Overall, the course provides understanding of how American literature represents the diverse voices that contribute to our multicultural national identity.

The materials needed for this course include the following texts (either in physical or digital formats):

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
The Way to Rainy Mountain by N. Scott Momaday

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: The American Revolution

- Increasing Tension
- Declaring Independence
- Setting Up a Nation
- Wrap-Up: The American Revolution

Unit 2: Romanticism and Transcendentalism

- Whitman and Dickinson
- Emerson and Thoreau
- Wrap-Up: Romanticism and Transcendentalism

Unit 3: The American Narrative

- Humor and Subjectivity
- Formality in Personal Narratives
- Diaries and Journals
- Wrap-Up: The American Narrative

Unit 4: Modernism and the American Dream

- The Rise of Modernism
- The Great Gatsby, Part I
- The Great Gatsby, Part II
- Wrap-Up: Modernism and the American Dream

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Modernism and Language

- Steinbeck and the Depression
- The Modernist Poets
- Experimenting with Language
- Wrap-Up: Modernism and Language

Unit 7: Redefining Home

- A Raisin in the Sun, Part I
- A Raisin in the Sun, Part II
- The Reaction to Change
- Wrap-Up: Redefining Home

Unit 8: Fractured Identities

- Vietnam
- Divided Loyalties
- Culture Clash
- Wrap-Up: Fractured Identities

Unit 9: The Influence of Science and Technology

- Humans and the Environment
- Humans and Media
- Wrap-Up: The Influence of Science and Technology

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up