

# Survey of American Literature: Overview

Quarter	American Literature: Lecture and Class Discussion	Vocabulary	American Literature (Specific Reading) <sup>1</sup>	American Literature (General Reading) <sup>2</sup>	Writing Project <sup>3</sup>
1	<i>Early American Authors: Colonial Period to early 19th Century</i> • William Bradford, Benjamin Franklin, Noah Webster, Anne Bradstreet, Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, James Fenimore Cooper, Edgar Allen Poe	Vocabulary Lists 1 and 2: ca. 150 words from <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> , James Fenimore Cooper; <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , Harriet Beecher Stowe	Early American Literature (Captain John Smith, William Bradford, Benjamin Franklin, Anne Bradstreet, Noah Webster, Roger Williams, Benjamin Franklin, etc.); Irving, Cooper, Melville, etc.	Research Paper I (General Topic): any early American author, a biography and/or an analysis of his or her works
2	<i>Early to Mid-19th Century</i> • Herman Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Transcendentalists (Emerson, Thoreau, etc.), Mark Twain • Poets: Longfellow, Whittier, Whitman	Vocabulary Lists 3 and 4: ca. 150 words from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , Mark Twain; <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Jack London; <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> , Stephen Crane	American Humor/Early 19th century American literature (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, John Greenleaf Whittier, etc.)	Research Paper II (Focused Topic): Paper on the inter-relationships of slavery, literature ( <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> ), and American history
3	<i>Mid-19th to Early 20th Century</i> • Jack London, Stephen Crane, O. Henry, Theodore Dreiser, Henry James, Thornton Wilder, Theodore Dreiser, Edgar Lee Masters, Henry James, Emily Dickinson, Upton Sinclair, etc.	Vocabulary Lists 5 and 6: ca. 150 words from <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> and <i>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</i>	<i>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</i> , Thornton Wilder; <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> , Earnest Hemingway; <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , Ray Bradbury	Turn of the Century American Authors/Westerns (Oliver Wendell Holmes, Stephen Crane, William Jennings Bryan, James Russell Lowell, Emily Dickinson, Bret Harte, Edward Eggleston, Edgar Lee Masters, etc.)	Creative Writing (Historical Fiction): Students will write a work of historical fiction, using drama and story-telling skills, as well as historical research, to effectively convey both story and history.
4	<i>Early 20th Century to the Present</i> • William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, Pearl S. Buck, Edna Ferber, etc. • Eugene O'Neill, Robert Frost, Ayn Rand, Harper Lee • Science Fiction: Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clark, Robert Heinlein, etc. • Modern American authors	Vocabulary Lists 7 and 8: ca. 150 words from <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , Harper Lee; <i>Travels with Charley</i> , John Steinbeck; <i>The Chosen</i> , Chaim Potok	American Literature and Society in the 20th Century (John Steinbeck, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Marian Anderson, Jesse Stuart, Robert Frost, etc.); Science Fiction; Literature from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, Modern Literature	Research Paper III: (General Topic) Research paper on any 20th century author, a biography and/or a literary analysis of his or her works

<sup>1</sup>These books are read in their entirety by all students and analyzed in detail in class.

<sup>2</sup>A selection of literature readings (poems, short stories, speeches, essays, excerpts, etc.) from *American Literature*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed (A Beka Book, Inc. ).

<sup>3</sup>Each quarter's writing project is ca. 7 to 10 pages (typed and double-spaced) in length. Research methods, documentation, and the correct formatting and preparation of academic research papers are emphasized and reviewed periodically through the year.