

# 2020-2021 High School American Literature Syllabus

Mrs. Kariti L. Barre / [kbarre@christianvictoryacademy.org](mailto:kbarre@christianvictoryacademy.org) / 321-296-9419

My Office Hours: M-F 4-5 pm, All contact outside office hours will be returned within 24 hours.

*If you need to contact me during school hours, please send me an email, do not call or text.*

## CVA Vision and Mission

*Vision: It is the Vision of CVA to equip each student with a quality Christian education firmly based in the Word of God so that they are fully prepared to take the love of God into all the earth.*

*Mission: It is the Mission of CVA to educate our students, using biblically sound teachings, in order that they may impact their world for Christ. We do this by utilizing our hybrid program to make individualized education plans. This is accomplished through on-campus, online, and home education programs.*

## Salutations!

Welcome to my English Class. I am excited to be your teacher for American Literature this year. Together we are going to explore some of the masters of the literary arts. In 1782 J Hector St John de Crevecoeur confidently asserted, "We have no princes for whom we toil, starve, and bleed; we are the most perfect society now existing in the world." Published just one year after the end of the American Revolution, *Letters From an American Farmer* captures the hope and enthusiasm of a young republic and inaugurates some of our most enduring American ideals.

## Course Description

### Primarily Used Textbook: Apologia American Literature

In this course of American Literature from its Puritan origins to the present, we will study how diverse writers represented, challenged, and helped to create the American culture that is powerfully influential in our nation today. Through guided discussion and independent research, we will strengthen our ability to read and write critically about literary texts, and we will gain a deeper appreciation of American literary history.

## Course Objectives

Based on the Florida State standards, at the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the basic structural elements/literary terms in American fiction and poetry.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the major literary periods, works, and persons in American literature and recognize their continuing significance.
- Identify a thesis in fiction and non-fiction selections.
- Identify relevant social and cultural issues reflected in the writings of American authors and recognize their continuing significance.
- Identify an author's arguments presented in fiction and non-fiction selections.
- Demonstrate research strategies to analyze and interpret American literary selections through a variety of written and spoken activities.
- Identify key ideas through the use of note-taking strategies.
- Demonstrate personal management and organizational skills.
- Apply appropriate strategies when reading selections that vary in content, difficulty, and correct writing style.
- Demonstrate improved formal/analytical writing skills.
- Improve vocabulary and grammar skills.

## Book List

**This is the list of books you will need to obtain in order to complete assignments.**

James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*

Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*

Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*

Brother Andrew's *God's Smuggler (expanded edition)*

## ★Classroom Rules★

Refer to the CVA student handbook for a complete listing of school rules, policies, and procedures.

★Regular classroom rules apply: Respect your teacher and peers at all times, turn in all assignments in a timely fashion, come prepared, and ready for class.

★Keep class discussions both in the classroom and online respectful.

★Always remember we represent Christian Victory Academy at all times, but also remember that we are representatives of God, and we should always conduct ourselves accordingly.

## Grading

### ✓ Tests/Quizzes: 50%

✓ There will be at least one test per unit.

- **\*Important!\*** Tests may be taken from any part of the unit including sidebar notes and vocabulary and handouts both physical and in Google Classroom. The student is responsible for reading/watching all the assigned material.

### ✓ Projects: 25%

✓ This will include your longer essays as well as other projects such as the Reading Fair.

### ✓ Assignments: 25%

✓ This will include the following:

->Reading/Reading Review Questions

->Vocabulary

->Diagramming/Grammar Exercises

->Speed writing Essays

->In-class participation-This will not show up as a separate graded assignment, however points will be docked from the Review question assignments for lack of in-class participation.

->Folder checks-Students are expected to keep their folders neat and orderly. Handouts not on Google Classroom should be kept in your folder as well as other in-class assignments and notes.

**Assignments are due by midnight the night before class.**

**Be prepared to answer questions during class.**

**Note: Late work will result in grade reductions on assignments.**

## □ Writing Assignments □

Students are required to use research and inquiry skills to analyze American Literature using primary and secondary sources.

✎ Research assignments will be required during this course.

✎ Students will be required to use grade-level appropriate writing skills.

✎ Students will be required to properly cite sources. (See my tutorial on citing sources on Google Classroom).

● Writing assignments without proper citations may be given a 0 for plagiarism. (Using someone else's work without giving proper credit)

✎ Students will use the MLA format in all written assignments, unless otherwise noted.

✎ Students will turn in all writing assignments on Google Classroom via Google Docs.

✎ Major Essays will be assigned in Google Classroom at least 2 weeks prior to due date.

✎ Journal Assignments

○ Will be assigned daily at the teacher's discretion.

○ Will be 50-150 words reflections on readings, lectures, etc.

## Materials List (Not including reading books)

Plastic 2-pocket folder with prongs	College ruled paper
Laptop or Tablet Computer	Pocket Dictionary
Pencils/Pens/Eraser	Trifold Presentation Board for Reading Fair
Colored Pencils	Bible

## Contacting your Teacher

Through the use of Google Classroom, students will be able to message me regarding assignments directly in the platform. This can be done through commenting on the stream or sending a private message within the assignment in question. Google Classroom allows for direct and prompt feedback on work and thus is the best way to communicate with me about assignments. If the student or parent needs to contact me directly it is highly recommended that they use the email provided at the beginning of this syllabus. **I will not text you directly to your phone without being in a group text with the parent. This rule is per our accreditation.**

## Classroom Discussion

As previously stated, as a classroom rule, all discussion will remain respectful and God-honoring. This course deals with subject matter that is not always the easiest for people to talk about. However, it cannot be ignored in order to gain a complete understanding of our nation's history and the Literature written during that history.. Not all events in our history are God-honoring, but the way in which we approach them to learn from them can be. We will always remain respectful of the diverse opinions of others and speak only from a place of love. **Our God loves everyone of us, and He created each one of us to be perfect in His sight. We are to treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.**

## Technology in the Classroom

Due to the use of Google Classroom, it will become necessary for students to utilize a laptop or tablet computer in class. Students may use their cell phones in lieu of a computer. Students are expected to conduct themselves online the same way they would in a classroom. Students will be expected to stay focused, and on task for any assignment that they are given. Collaboration is an important part of learning and I will be utilizing projects with collaboration components. Any student who is found to be using technology in the classroom in a way that is not conducive to learning or that breaks any of the CVA rules will lose their privilege to work on a computer in class and will have to complete assignments on paper while on campus. Students will still be expected to complete and upload all assignments to Google Classroom, on time, as assigned. While I encourage you to download the Google Classroom app on your cell phones in order to keep track of your assignments,



Google Classroom



This year we will be using Google Classroom and it will be the central hub of all your assignments and other useful materials.

- ★-All Grades will be posted on Google Classroom★
- ★All assignments will be posted on Google Classroom★
- ★All announcements/handouts will be posted on Google Classroom★
- ★Google slides will be posted on Google Classroom★
- ★Videos will be posted on Google Classroom★

During our first class meeting, I will be giving you a guided tour of Google Classroom, in order to ensure that all students are able to sign up and get logged into the class. I will also teach you how to turn in assignments, view additional materials, and find your grades.

★Signing in to Google Classroom.

1. Go to [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com)
2. Log in with your School Gmail account
3. Click the + sign at the top right-hand corner
4. Click "Join Class"
5. Type in the classroom code which I will give you on the first day of school.

**Note:** In the event of a student's absence it is the responsibility of the student to log in to Google Classroom to find the notes, outlines, videos, handouts, and assignments that they missed and complete all assigned work.