STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

American Literature — High School Course with CLEP Preparation

American Literature traces how the nation's writers argued about who Americans are.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
1.0 credit	**120 h**	**27.5 h**	**92.5 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 1.0-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	reading, review and writing

27.5 h StudyWalks (5.9 h of lessons, 14.8 h of lectures, 7.1 h of quizzes and exams) + **92.5 h** suggested offline study = **120 h**. 641 lessons in 19 units; prepares for the CLEP American Literature exam.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**Reading Poetry: Line, Sound, Form, Figure** The Reader's Task · The Line and Its Rhythm · Rhyme and Sound · Stanza and Fixed Form · Speech and Figure · Figure and Meaning · Reading a Poem Cold · Tone, Response, and the Traps · The Board's Vocabulary and the Unit's Method	40	1 h 2 min (2 parts)
2	**Reading Prose and Drama: Voice, Plot, Style** Who Tells It · How It Is Built · How It Is Written · Time and Mind · Kinds of Writing · Reading a Passage · Placing and Attributing · Traps and Method	32	53 min (2 parts)
3	**Beginnings: Native Oral Traditions, Contact, Exploration** Before the Nation · The Creation Stories · Heroes, Healing, and How Oral Texts Work · The Europeans Writing Home · Resistance and Native Writing · Procedures and the Archive	26	43 min (2 parts)
4	**Puritan New England** The Errand and Its Doctrine · Winthrop and Bradford · Anne Bradstreet · Taylor, and the Captivity to Come · Captivity, Salem, and Dissent · Edwards and the Reading Procedures	28	41 min (2 parts)
5	**Enlightenment, Revolution, and the New Republic** The Turn to Reason · Franklin · The Question and the Argument · Jefferson and the Letter · Phillis Wheatley · Testimony and Petition · Argument, Verse, and the First Novels · Sorting and the Capstone	28	40 min (2 parts)
6	**The New Nation: Irving, Cooper, and the First American Fiction** The Search for a National Literature · Washington Irving · Cooper and the Frontier · Bryant and the Trade · Forms and Poets · Procedures and the Capstone	24	37 min (2 parts)
7	**Transcendentalism: Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller** What the Movement Claimed · Emerson · Thoreau · Conscience and Fuller · The Club, the Critics, the Afterlife · Procedures and the Capstone	26	39 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
8	**The Dark Romantics: Poe, Hawthorne, Melville** Dark Romanticism and Poe's Theory · Poe's Poems · Poe's Tales · Hawthorne's Tales · *The Scarlet Letter* and After · Romance, and Melville's Great Book · The Shorter Melville · Telling Them Apart	32	43 min (2 parts)
9	**Slavery, Reform, and the Woman Question** Reform Writing and the Slave Narrative · Frederick Douglass · The Other Narratives · Pamphlet and Newspaper · Stowe and Sentiment · Sojourner Truth · The Woman Question and the Reform Writers · Procedures and the Capstone	27	40 min (2 parts)
10	**Whitman and Dickinson** Two Poets, One Problem · Whitman's Book · Whitman's Technique · Grief, War, and Lincoln · Dickinson's Life and Form · Four More Dickinson Poems · Procedures and the Capstone	26	38 min (2 parts)
11	**Realism and Regionalism** The Realist Programme · Twain and the Vernacular · The River Novels · Late Twain, and Two Harder Regionalists · New England and Louisiana · An Ending, and the International Theme · James's Method, and Four More Writers · Procedures and the Capstone	44	54 min (2 parts)
12	**Naturalism and the Turn of the Century** The Thesis · Norris and Crane · Crane's Major Work · London, Dreiser, Sinclair · Washington, Du Bois, Dunbar · Dunbar's Bird, and Four More Writers · Procedures and the Capstone	39	51 min (2 parts)
13	**The Harlem Renaissance** The Movement and Its Conditions · Langston Hughes · The Manifesto and the Sonneteers · Toomer and Hurston · Hurston, Larsen, Fauset, and the Later Hughes · Procedures and the Capstone	28	40 min (2 parts)
14	**Modernist Poetry** The Break and the Programme · Pound's Career and Its Quarrel · T. S. Eliot · Robert Frost · Wallace Stevens · Williams Against Eliot · Five More Poets · Procedures and the Capstone	40	50 min (2 parts)
15	**Modernist Fiction and Drama** The Lost Generation · Fitzgerald · Hemingway · Faulkner's Novels · Faulkner's Close, and the Prairie · Depression, Collage, and Protest · The Stage, and Telling Them Apart	41	49 min (2 parts)
16	**Postwar Fiction, 1945–1975** After the War · Ralph Ellison · James Baldwin · The Southern Writers · Salinger and the Jewish-American Novelists · The Suburb and the Emigre · The Beats and the War · Postmodernism, and the Drills	44	52 min (2 parts)
17	**Postwar Poetry and Drama** The Camps and the Watershed · Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton · Elizabeth Bishop · Jarrell and Roethke · The Black Poets · Clifton, the Beats, and the Politics · King, and the Stage · Miller and After	44	51 min (2 parts)
18	**Contemporary and Multicultural Voices** Toni Morrison · Walker, and the Asian American Writers · The Native American Renaissance · Latino Writing and the Border · Two Vietnam Books, and Carver · Sentence and System · The Popular, the Public, and the Stage · Procedures and the Capstone	48	57 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
19	**Capstone: The Exam, the Bands, the Sample Questions** The Exam and the Course · The Five Period Bands · The Four Skill Bands · Timeline, Movements, and Pairs · The First Two Drills · The Douglass Pair, and the Label · The Last Four Drills, and the Course's Argument	24	47 min (2 parts)

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 19 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–10, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 100 questions, 90 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (66 of 100 correct, about 66%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested composite grade

Part	Weight
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	20%
Mid exam (best score)	20%
Final exam (percent correct)	60%

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets the grade. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 92.5 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the matching sections of an open textbook on the subject, review the unit quiz misses, and write a one-page unit summary. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	Reading Poetry: Line, Sound, Form, Figure	1 h 24 min	6 h 15 min	7 h 39 min
2	Reading Prose and Drama: Voice, Plot, Style	1 h 11 min	5 h 20 min	6 h 31 min
3	Beginnings: Native Oral Traditions, Contact, Exploration	58 min	4 h 20 min	5 h 18 min
4	Puritan New England	56 min	4 h 10 min	5 h 6 min
5	Enlightenment, Revolution, and the New Republic	55 min	4 h 5 min	5 h
Lessons and lectures		**20 h 38 min**	**92 h 30 min**	**113 h 8 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**7 h 6 min**	—	**7 h 6 min**

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
6	The New Nation: Irving, Cooper, and the First American Fiction	50 min	3 h 45 min	4 h 35 min
7	Transcendentalism: Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller	54 min	4 h	4 h 54 min
8	The Dark Romantics: Poe, Hawthorne, Melville	1 h	4 h 30 min	5 h 30 min
9	Slavery, Reform, and the Woman Question	55 min	4 h 5 min	5 h
10	Whitman and Dickinson	52 min	3 h 55 min	4 h 47 min
11	Realism and Regionalism	1 h 18 min	5 h 50 min	7 h 8 min
12	Naturalism and the Turn of the Century	1 h 12 min	5 h 25 min	6 h 37 min
13	The Harlem Renaissance	55 min	4 h 5 min	5 h
14	Modernist Poetry	1 h 11 min	5 h 20 min	6 h 31 min
15	Modernist Fiction and Drama	1 h 12 min	5 h 25 min	6 h 37 min
16	Postwar Fiction, 1945–1975	1 h 17 min	5 h 45 min	7 h 2 min
17	Postwar Poetry and Drama	1 h 15 min	5 h 35 min	6 h 50 min
18	Contemporary and Multicultural Voices	1 h 23 min	6 h 10 min	7 h 33 min
19	Capstone: The Exam, the Bands, the Sample Questions	1 h	4 h 30 min	5 h 30 min
Lessons and lectures		**20 h 38 min**	**92 h 30 min**	**113 h 8 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**7 h 6 min**	**—**	**7 h 6 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

StudyWalks finals are modeled on the CLEP exam blueprint in scope, format, and rigor. Scores are StudyWalks scores, not CLEP scores, and are not affiliated with or recognized by the College Board.

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