

APEX LA 11

Class Description:

This class meets the graduation requirement for the State of Washington and Kennewick School District.

American Literature is a literature and composition course offering organized as a survey of American literature. It can stand alone as a complete year of general study in English without a specific prerequisite, but its modular design allows flexibility in how the program is used in the classroom; teachers may use a single unit, lesson, or activity to supplement regular class content. The course builds literary and communication skills, including reading, writing, language appreciation and aesthetics, listening and speaking, viewing and representing, and research.

Within these general topic areas, special emphasis is placed on writing expository, research, and creative compositions; honing critical and analytic skills through close readings of literary, historical, expository, and functional documents; using context strategies and an understanding of etymology to build vocabulary; and practicing communication skills.

Reading selections cover a variety of genres and voices in literature and expository prose. Students read a survey of American literature from colonial to contemporary eras. They learn and practice workplace communication skills in special activities. Finally, students practice gathering, evaluating, synthesizing, presenting, and documenting information in a unit dedicated to writing research reports.

Summaries and annotations support fluency and comprehension of all reading material. Robust scaffolding in the form of process guides and graphic organizers helps reluctant writers to internalize strategies and develop composition skills. Select activities target text-handling skills and promote improved performance on commonly assessed literary analysis and response standards. Study sheets support engagement with direct instruction and develop note-taking and study skills.

The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

Learning Materials:

APEX is a complete curriculum, other than a computer a student does not need any additional materials.

Learning Goals:

The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards. This course meets a graduation requirement and meets at least one GLE and/or EALR.

Learning Activities:

Student will complete Study, Discussion, Activity and a Quiz for each section in a unit and then will complete a unit exam. Activities are based on a student earning a min. of 70% or better in each activity.

Evaluation:

On each month's progress reports, student will report completion and mastery of learning activities designed to reach specific goals within the course description.

In addition, students will keep portfolios of their written work, quizzes, and tests to show their consultants and/or HQ teachers.

Every month progress will be determined by the HQ teacher of this course based on the question: "Will the student master his performance objectives by the end of the course?" The HQ teacher will take into consideration ALL factors (including student life situation, effort, attitude, etc.) when making this professional judgment.

Each month, the student will be expected to master approximately 10% of the yearly goals for this class (or 20% of semester goals), with all of the goals being met by the end of the year (or semester.) The mastery of any one goal may be an on-going process and some goals may overlap or be difficult to measure. Evaluation of progress toward the mastery of the goals will be based on monthly completion (or progress toward completion) of the learning activities that are designed to provide the means to achieving the goals of the learning plan. With that said, monthly progress can still be marked satisfactory based on the professional judgment of the teacher that the student will complete the goals of the course.