

# High School American Literature Course 2023-24

## (Regular, Honors, or AP Track)

amy.ruff@outlook.com

Amy Ruff's Home School Tutorials

(919) 219-4338

**Prospectus:** Amy Ruff will lead this journey into some of the most beloved works of American literature. Great minds will lead us from **heights of joy to depths of despair** across many genres, including:

- **Poems** by the enslaved Lucy Terry Prince & Phillis Wheatley
- **Novels** by Hawthorne & Steinbeck
- **Poems & speeches** by Native Americans
- **Short stories** by Welty, Updike, & Asimov

Along our path, we will:

- Identify **theme**
- Trace **plots**
- Analyze **conflict**

A few sights we're sure to encounter entail the following:

- The **fiber of femininity** as expressed in "The Wife of His Youth" & Longfellow's *Evangeline*
- Spiritual **struggles of conscience** viewed through the lens of Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* & Potok's *Chosen*
- The **heart-wrenching prejudice** portrayed in Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* & Sinclair's *Jungle*

A highlight of our adventure will be theatrical outings to see **musical-drama productions** by UNC's PlayMakers Repertory Company; those **Educational Matinee** titles are still being determined by PRC.

**Course Unit Value & Student Age:** Unweighted 1 unit English/language arts for advanced 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Materials:**

1. All registered students will receive the **Am Lit Overview PDF** which includes a list of our **Works of Study:**
  - Note: **\*ed lit works** are **listed throughout the Am Lit Overview** & emailed to students.
  - **Lit works to purchase** are listed at the **end of the Am Lit Overview** to be **read & brought to class** on the **week of their study**; purchased copies are preferable for **annotating the text**.
2. All registered students should receive the **Am Lit Summer Reading Letter & Exam**.
3. No later than Mon 8/21/23, all registered students will receive the emailed **Am Lit Syllabus**.

American Lit students **select & follow 1 of the 3 tracks** described below:

**Directions for Deciding Which Track to Take:** Am Lit students **select 1 of these 3 academic tracks** to follow:

- **Regular Track**
- **Honors Track**
- **AP Track**
- A student may start on a certain track, but decide to switch tracks at some point during the year.
- The course syllabus presents **RT, HT, & AP** homework in more detail than is explained below.
- Though listing **regular, honors, & AP** assignments below, **Mrs. Ruff defers to parents about what HW a student completes**, believing that parents are **in charge of & have the final say**; therefore, **any assignment may be omitted or customized** as the **parent sees fit** or the **student's schedule necessitates**.

**Regular Track (RT):** Assignments for RT students include the following.

1. In response to paper-prompt options, **write 3 papers of 3-7 pages** in length for which **students are** amply prepared by Amy Ruff's In-Class Writing Workshops.
2. Generate several **quick writes (QWs)** in response to specific **lit-analysis prompts**.
3. Follow the class **syllabus**.
4. **Read all lit works** by their due dates.
5. Take **class notes** in order to engage in **spirited class discussion** & easily accomplish 1-4 above.
6. **Follow RT directions** on the **Summer Reading PDF**.

**Honors Track (HT):** In addition to 2-5 above for RT, assignments for HT students include the following.

1. In response to paper-prompt options, **write 4 papers of 3-7 pages** in length for which **students are** amply prepared by Amy Ruff's In-Class Writing Workshops; however, **if the average of papers 1-3 = 95+%, then the HT student is excused from writing Paper #4—unless the parent decides otherwise**.
2. **Orchestrate a few small-group QWs**, practicing **collaborative & leadership skills** via **Google Docs**.
3. **Maintain a 90+% average**.
4. **Follow directions for HT students** on the **Summer Reading PDF**.

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**AP (Advanced Placement) Track:** In addition to 2-5 above for RT & number 1 for HT, assignments for AP students include the following.

1. Follow directions for AP students on the **Summer Reading PDF**.
2. Maintain a **93+% course average**.
3. **Present** during class the following as an AP team: **plot, character, & thematic summaries** on 1 lit work.
4. **Write 4 TAPes (Timed AP Essays)** of 40-minutes each that respond to prompts on some of the Am Lit works being read. These TAPes prepare students to take the AP English Literature & Composition Exam which is offered in early May in local public, charter, or private schools; as an extended preparation experience, some students take the AP track for a few years in Amy Ruff's lit classes before sitting for this AP exam. The course syllabus clearly details AP homework.

**Testimony:** I'm currently teaching student #5 of 5 from a lovely family—whose eldest child wrote this testimony:

*Mrs. Ruff's English classes **prepared me exceptionally well** for the **writing demands of Harvard**.*

*I thrived in my required freshman writing course, earning an A.*

*Specifically, I found **my ability to structure a paper to far exceed that of my peers**.*

*Now, **as a senior**, I am **known among my peers as an excellent editor** and have edited several senior theses....*

*However, to say Mrs. Ruff's courses improved only my writing ability would be insufficient.*

*The **benefits of her courses have extended beyond English classes**. All courses at Harvard require the ability to think clearly and formulate a sound argument.*

***I attribute my success at Harvard, in large part, to Mrs. Ruff's development of my critical-thinking skills.***

*~ K.J.V., **Harvard 2017** (Majors in Economics and Computer Science)*

**Bio:** Amy Ruff lives next to her beloved alma mater, Duke University, & enjoys teaching, tutoring, & test prepping students **in person** as well as **online** in her areas of specialty: **SAT, ACT, & APs; literary analysis; writing & composition; Spanish; psychology; philosophy & religion; executive-functioning & study skills.**

Having completed her **BA at Duke University with double majors in English & religion**, Amy also earned a **Certificate in Duke's rigorous interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program**. While an undergraduate & after graduation, Amy worked in **editing for the Duke University Press** & continues to **freelance edit**.

**Intuitive and seasoned at identifying & developing the potential in her students**, Amy's **energetic & engaging style** enables students to **grow in their knowledge of subject matter** while also **honing their critical-thinking skills & elevating their character**. Having **homeschooled her own children** through high school, Amy continues to **support the homeschooling community by offering group-class tutorials**.

Counseling students to **align self-understanding with their envisioned future**, Amy has aided many to **make wise choices** for their **post-high-school paths**. She has assisted students to **succeed on test prep & applications for acceptance** into a range of schools. From **Harvard, Duke, & Stanford** to **UNC & NCSU** to **community colleges across NC**, Amy's students **thrive in diverse academic, artistic, athletic, trade, & professional pursuits**.

Of **Argentine-Italian descent** & hailing from **Italian roots in Pittsburgh, PA**, Amy attended boarding prep school on a **full scholarship** & received a college scholarship from the **Spanish National Honor Society**. Amy continued her **Spanish studies at Duke** & served on **short-term missions as a Spanish interpreter**. From the **rudiments of grammar & vocabulary** to encounters with **cooking & dancing**, Sra. Amy's students **learn to love Latina language & culture!**

Always eager to serve the local & global community, Amy is a supporter of two **overseas NGOs**, a graduate of **REI (Racial Equity Institute) training**, & a volunteer with **The Honor Foundation** (helping special-ops retirees, like Amy's deceased big brother who was a decorated Navy SEAL).

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### Class Time/Location/Dates:

- Am Lit is **Tues 1045 AM-12 PM 8/22-12/12/23 & 1/9-5/14/24** with **10/10/23 fall & 3/12/24 spring breaks.**
- Am Lit is at **Grace Church in room #118:** 200 Sage Rd, Chapel Hill, across from Lowe's near 15-501/I-40.

### Registration & Tuition:

1. The nonrefundable **registration & tuition** are based on the track the student chooses to follow & should be paid (as friends if applicable) via one of the following preferred **platforms.**
  - **Venmo** [www.venmo.com/Amy-Ruff-8](http://www.venmo.com/Amy-Ruff-8)
  - **Zelle** under Amy's cell 919-219-4338
  - **CashApp** [https://cash.app/\\$AmyRT3](https://cash.app/$AmyRT3)
  - Snail mail a **check to Amy Ruff** 1101 Anderson Street Durham NC 27705
2. The **registration** is due in spring 2023, & **tuition** is due as  $\frac{1}{2}$  in **August** &  $\frac{1}{2}$  in **January:**
  - \$75 reg/\$700 tuition regular track
  - \$100 reg/\$750 tuition honors track
  - \$125 reg/\$800 tuition AP track
3. With payment, please include pertinent details as below: name(s), class(es), track, contact.

#### Times for Amy's 2023-24 Classes on Tues – Hybrid offerings of each class are conducted in person & via Zoom (student preference):

- Tues/830-930 **Spanish II** (regular & honors tracks)
- Tues/930-1045 **Psychology** (honors & AP tracks)
- Tues/1045-12 **American Lit** (regular, honors, & AP tracks)
- Tues/12-1 **Spanish I** (regular & honors tracks)
- Tues/1-145 **Middle School Composition**
- Tues/145-245 **Intro Lit** (regular & honors tracks)

#### Academic Calendar for Amy Ruff's 2023-24 Classes:

- **8/22/23** First Fall Tues 2023 Class
- **10/10/23** NO Class for Fall Break
- **12/12/23** Last 2023 Tues Class
- **1/9/24** First 2024 Tues Class
- **3/12/24** NO Class for Spring Break
- **5/14/24** Last 2024 Tues Class

Names: Student's \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Emails: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Student's \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' \_\_\_\_\_

To accommodate schedules/meet demand, Amy may offer identical Tues &/or Wed sections of her classes, so contact Amy.

<b>American Lit Tues 1045 AM-12 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750 <input type="checkbox"/> AP \$125/800	
<b>Spanish I Registration/Tuition</b> <b>Tues at Grace Church 12-1 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750	<b>Spanish II Registration/Tuition</b> <b>Tues at Grace Church 830-930 AM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750
<b>Introduction to Psychology Tues at Grace Church 930-1045 AM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750 <input type="checkbox"/> AP \$125/800	
<b>Introduction to Literature Tues at Grace Church 145-245 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750	
<b>Middle School Composition on Tues at Grace Church 1-145 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> One Track <b>Reg/Tuition</b> \$100/750	