

COURSE NUMBER:	509
COURSE TITLE:	American Heritage
COURSE LENGTH:	Year, Four Credits
PREREQUISITE:	None
GRADE LEVEL:	11

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a one year course taught jointly by one history teacher and one literature teacher. It portrays the story of American culture by showing how American history and literature are interrelated.

COURSE RATIONALE:

This course exposes students to American history, literature, and culture and shows the relationships between these subjects.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

The course is broken into eight themes. Each theme is broken into STARS which are Student Thought And Response Summaries. Each STAR represents a piece of knowledge essential to understanding the theme. Each theme's assignments include reading, writing, research, quizzes, small group discussions, project presentations, a theme test, and a portfolio showing your work.

ASSESSMENT:

One grade is given for American Heritage. The student's grade carries a double credit value and satisfies 11th grade requirements for both social studies and language arts. Daily assignments (completion of STARS, participation, and quizzes) count 25%; STAR portfolios count 25%; and theme tests and projects count 50% of the total grade. A variety of class activities and a variety of grading procedures accommodates various learning styles.

CRITICAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Through the processes of reading and research, students will think, ask questions, and analyze issues in American history
2. Students will read and analyze a variety of American authors
3. Students will write, discuss, and use several forms of creative expression
4. Students will experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of America by recreating the life of its past.

