

High School American Literature Course 2014-15

(Regular, Honors, or AP Track)

Amy Ruff's Home School Tutorials

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(919) 493-7830

Prospectus: Amy Ruff will lead this journey into some of the most beloved works of American literature. Great minds, like Steinbeck, Twain, & Melville, will lead us from heights of joy to depths of despair. Along our path, we'll identify themes, trace plots, & analyze conflicts. A few sights we're sure to encounter include: the fiber of femininity as expressed in "The Wife of His Youth" & Longfellow's *Evangeline*; the spirituality of youth & manhood through the lens of Potok's *Chosen* & Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; & some heart-wrenching ethnic prejudice in Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* as well as Sinclair's *Jungle*. A highlight of our adventure will be our theatrical jaunt to a musical-drama production by Playmakers Repertory Co. at UNC: Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

All regular-track students are required to do the following: 1) **write three 3-7 page papers**; 2) respond to prompts for multiple **quick writes (QWs)**; 3) take a few **quizzes** throughout the year; 4) follow the class **syllabus**; 5) **read all lit works** by their due dates; & 6) take **class notes** in order to engage in spirited **class discussion** & easily accomplish 1-3 above; 7) follow instructions on the **Summer Reading Letter** (please request SRL if not yet received).

In addition to 2-6 above, **honors students** are expected to: 1) **lead a few small-group QW** submissions; 2) **write four 3-7 pp papers unless** the average of **papers 1-3 = 95+%**; 3) maintain a **90+% average**; 4) follow **directions for honors students** on the **Summer Reading Letter** (please request SRL if not yet received).

In addition to 2-6 for regular & item 2 for honors tracks, **AP (Advanced Placement) students** must: 1) follow **directions for AP** students on the **Summer Reading Letter** (please request SRL if not yet received); 2) maintain a **93+% average**; 3) **present plot & thematic summaries** to the class on a few lit works which are not read by regular-track students; 4) **write five 40-minute Timed AP Essays (TAPES)** in response to some of the lit works being read. These essays are to prepare students to take the AP English Literature & Composition Exam which is offered in early May in local public/charter/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 states AP homework assignments.

As homeschool parents, you may choose to opt out of the summer reading or any other assignments during this course; your student's individual interests, other classes, family trips, etc. may necessitate such flexibility. You have the final say in your student's homeschool.

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Student Age & Course Unit Value: High school English language or elective = 1 unit. Amy Ruff does not weight the honors or AP unit value, but parents may do so on a student's transcript. Recommended student age ranges from advanced 8th graders to high schoolers.

Class Location/Time/Dates: Class will be held at Grace Church, 200 Sage Rd., Chapel Hill, across from Lowes on 15-501, **8:30-9:45 am** on most **Tuesdays from August 26-December 9, 2014 & January 6-May 12, 2015**. Class will not meet for Mrs. Ruff's **fall & spring breaks**, but those dates are still being determined.

Bio: Amy Ruff is a Durham/Chapel Hill/online private tutor & teacher of homeschool group classes in literature, composition, Spanish, worldview, SAT writing/grammar prep, & study skills (Adler's *How to Read a Book*). Mrs. Ruff homeschooled her 4 children, now ranging from 18 years old to a 2013 graduate of NC State University. She received a BA in 1989 from Duke University in English & religion with a Certificate in Women's Studies. Having studied Spanish in boarding school & at Duke, Mrs. Ruff served on the short-term mission field as a Spanish interpreter. Before having her first child, Mrs. Ruff worked in editing for the Duke University Press. Thereafter, she continued to freelance edit and translate Spanish for Duke Press, Journalistic, and other publishing entities until her mom & homeschool duties eclipsed all else. Mrs. Ruff has been teaching tutorials in her home, at her church, & through a cooperative since 1999. She & her husband have been members of Grace Church in Chapel Hill since they were undergrads. Since 1999 Amy Ruff has been a member of North Carolinians for Home Education.

Materials, Registration, & Tuition: All registered students will receive the **Summer Reading Letter** & a **Course Overview**. The latter contains a detailed outline of our works in their historical & literary context. At the **end of the Course Overview** is a **book list** of longer **works to be purchased by the students**; they will also receive several shorter lit works (short stories, poems, etc.) via email for assignments throughout the year. If you are registered & have not received the Summer Reading Letter & Course Overview, then please email Amy Ruff to request those. Students are responsible to bring to class a copy of each literary work on the week it is being studied; purchased (not library) copies are preferable, so the student is free to write in the text. Many used copies of our literary works are available online & locally at Nice Price Books.

Class **tuition/registration** is **\$400/\$50 for regular-track students, \$450/\$75 for honors students, or \$500/\$100 for AP students. Tuition is due in advance as half in August & half in January.** After parents determine the proper track for their student, the **registration fee** should be sent with the form below to:

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Amy Ruff • 1101 Anderson Street • Durham NC 27705

Names: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Emails: _____

Phones: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Please circle class & check appropriate registration fee for regular, honors, or AP track as shown:

American Lit (___ Regular \$50 ___ Honors \$75 ___ AP \$100) **Introduction to Literature** (___ Regular \$50 ___ Honors \$75)

Spanish I (___ Regular \$50 ___ Honors \$75)

Spanish III (___ Regular \$50 ___ Honors \$75)

Spanish II (___ Regular \$50 ___ Honors \$75)

Middle School Composition \$75

Honors Spanish IV \$75