



## **North Carolina Essential Standards**

### **Social Studies Elective**

### **American Humanities Seminar**

The humanities can be described as the study of the various ways in which people, from every period of history, process and document the human experience. Since humans have been able, we have used history, literature, religion, philosophy, art, music, and language to understand and record our world. Thus, the humanities are the integrated study of the ideas and values inherent in human existence. Humanities demonstrate the way that human beings historically create and share meaning as individuals, as communities, cultures, and across cultures through what they document and produce. The integrated study of the humanities offers content and skills necessary for an engaged citizenship and humanity.

An American humanities course should emphasize the human journey associated with being and/or becoming American. In 1781 French traveler Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur asked the question, “What then is the American, this new man?” This course should attempt to answer that question, as well as other essential questions to find meaning in the American experience. The course should use an historical lens to discover and question through broad humanistic movements—literary, artistic, linguistic, philosophical, and religious—the cultural uniqueness of the United States. An additional point of emphasis for American humanities should be popular culture and the mediums in which that culture has been expressed.

The course should accentuate a variety of voices representative of the American experience over time. Thus, the course coverage should range from the early national period to the modern era. Perspectives from Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama, from Edgar Allen Poe to Stephen King, from Thomas Eakins to Andy Warhol, from Phyllis Wheatley to Maya Angelou, and from Muddy Waters to Michael Jackson could all be rigorously interpreted for relevant meaning. Additional emphasis should be placed on how religious and philosophical thought have influenced American culture--directly and inferentially, visually and rhetorically.

This course should be written and rationalized as a seminar experience. Thus, the skills associated with seminar participation—reading, researching, listening, speaking, questioning, interpreting, reasoning—are embedded in the standards.

**American Humanities Seminar**

Note on Numbering: C–Culture

<b>Culture</b>			
	<b>Essential Standard</b>	<b>Clarifying Objectives</b>	
<b>12.C.1</b>	<b>Understand how American culture defines what it means to be an American.</b>	12.C.1.1	Analyze expressions of identity within American literature, philosophy, and the arts.
		12.C.1.2	Distinguish between Americans' acceptance or rejection of both religious faith and human reasoning through literary movements.
		12.C.1.3	Compare ways that various ethnic and cultural communities in America have articulated the self.
		12.C.1.4	Compare ways in which the human ideal has been expressed in American culture.
		12.C.1.5	Evaluate the extent to which American affluence has affected individual identity.
<b>12.C.2</b>	<b>Understand the role of conformity and individualism in American culture.</b>	12.C.2.1	Explain how conformity and individuality have influenced American literature, philosophy and the arts.
		12.C.2.2	Evaluate the extent to which American support or criticism of conformity has influenced American literature, philosophy and the arts.
		12.C.2.3	Evaluate the extent to which individualism and the belief in the human capacity to solve problems has influenced American literature, philosophy, and the arts.

North Carolina Essential Standards  
 Social Studies Elective  
 American Humanities Seminar

<b>12.C.3</b>	<b>Understand how poverty, affluence, and the "American Dream" have influenced American culture.</b>	12.C.3.1	Compare multiple perspectives of the "American Dream" using examples of American literature, philosophy, and the arts.
		12.C.3.2	Distinguish the "American Dream" as an idealistic or pragmatic philosophy.
		12.C.3.3	Evaluate "universal prosperity" as a Utopian ideal founded in the "American Dream."
		12.C.3.4	Evaluate the extent to which poverty, affluence and the American dream have affected literature, philosophy, and the arts.
<b>12.C.4</b>	<b>Understand how American culture has sought to balance individual rights with the common good.</b>	12.C.4.1	Deconstruct the concepts of freedom, equality, and justice in American literature, philosophy and the arts.
		12.C.4.2	Explain how discrepancies in freedom, equality and justice influenced American literature, philosophy and the arts.
<b>12.C.5</b>	<b>Understand how conflict and consensus influences American culture.</b>	12.C.5.1	Analyze the relationship between conflict and consensus in American literature, philosophy, and the arts.
		12.C.5.2	Explain the impact of American slavery on American culture.
		12.C.5.3	Analyze the relationship between warfare and American culture.
		12.C.5.4	Analyze American societal perceptions of women.
		12.C.5.5	Explain how social movements on behalf of civil rights and reform have influenced American culture.
		12.C.5.6	Evaluate the extent to which conflict and consensus have shaped American literature, philosophy, and the arts.

North Carolina Essential Standards  
 Social Studies Elective  
 American Humanities Seminar

<b>12.C.6</b>	<b>Understand how human interaction with land and nature has impacted American culture.</b>	12.C.6.1	Explain how human interaction with land and nature impacted the development of literature, philosophy, and the arts.
		12.C.6.2	Distinguish nature as a useful resource for humanity or an uncontrollable element.
		12.C.6.3	Explain how movement on the American frontier influenced artistic expression and philosophical thought within the United States.
		12.C.6.4	Analyze the relationship between regionalism and cultural development.
<b>12.C.7</b>	<b>Understand the relationship between industrialization, urbanization and American culture.</b>	12.C.7.1	Explain how industrialization and urbanization impacted the development of American literature, philosophy, and arts.
		12.C.7.2	Analyze the relationship between urban immigration, migration and American culture.
		12.C.7.3	Evaluate the extent to which industrialization and urbanization have defined American culture.
<b>12.C.8</b>	<b>Understand the relationship between innovation and American culture.</b>	12.C.8.1	Explain how innovations in technology, transportation and communication influenced American literature, philosophy, and the arts.
		12.C.8.2	Analyze various genres of American music, in terms of origins, development, cultural effects and distribution through radio and television.
		12.C.8.3	Analyze the development of popular culture in terms of psychology, advertising, and consumerism.
		12.C.8.4	Evaluate mediums of popular culture, such as music, television, photographs, and movies, in terms of historical context and accuracy.

