



***Middle School
American Literature
and History
(Section 2)
Yearlong 2020-2021***



Instructor: Peter Bradshaw

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1. Incoming Student Profile

To succeed in this course, students will need the following prerequisite skills. If you (or you child) is unsure whether this course would be a good fit, please email me and we can decide together.

- Reads proficiently
- Emerging writing skills
- Interest in thematic discussion of texts
- Willingness to engage in group discussion
- Able to receive constructive criticism and praise
- Completes readings and assignments on time

2. Course Description

Scholé Academy's Middle School American History and Literature courses are designed to offer a flexible yet integrated introduction to the study of American History and develop the skills necessary for independent scholarship in a restful and supportive learning environment. These middle-school courses will invite students to take a closer look at a various works to provide context and understanding of the broad strokes of American History and Literature. Like other Scholé history courses, this class will blend "surveying the landscape (considering the whole) and deep dives into great books from American History.

Our study of American Literature and History will teach students to cultivate historical thinking through the engaging study of real people and events that have helped shape the nation they call home. Beginning with Viewpoints exercises (From Socratic Circles by Matt Crider),

progressing to annotation of small sections of text, and moving on to asking one another questions from their annotations, students will learn the basics of Socratic discussions, which will guide our interaction as they begin to see the shades of gray and the nuances of people and events. Posing and answering questions will take them deeper into historical events and advance their thinking. Learning how to summarize, complete outlines, and write papers will help them connect information, seeing causes and effects.

Students are asked to consider and engage carefully crafted questions as their window into “the Great Conversation.” Occasionally, the teacher will present historical context through brief lectures, but all other classes are seminar-style discussions on the American texts. Students are assessed for their curiosity, participation, and diligence during discussions, as well as by means of short response papers, essays, projects, and occasional quizzes.

- **Integrated**—Both classes are taught by the same teacher and meet in back-to-back sessions
- **Flexible**—students may take one or both modules (either simultaneously or successively)
- **Introductory**—no background knowledge is assumed or required
- **Survey**—students will gain a broad perspective on civilization
- **Restful**—a modest selection of texts read slowly and carefully; multum non multa

3. Required Course Texts:

American History:

- A History of US Ten volume set ISBN: 0195327268
- Sacajawea by Joseph Bruchac
- The Courage and Character of Theodore Roosevelt by George Grant, also called Carry a Big Stick: The Uncommon Heroism of Teddy Roosevelt
- OPTIONAL: Atlas of American History by Rand McNally ISBN-10: 0528015346
- Various fables, tall tales, and other pdfs provided by teacher

American Literature:

- Island of the Blue Dolphins
- Witch of Blackbird Pond
- Johnny Tremain

- Bound for Oregon
- Across Five Aprils or Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman
- Lyddie
- Blue Willow or Hero Over Here
- The Devil's Arithmetic
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
- A Treasury of Poetry for Young People ISBN-10: 9780806919560
- Various fables, tall tales, and other pdfs provided by teacher

4. **Class Session Dates**

Class Times: Mondays & Wednesdays

- Literature: 9:30 p.m. EST, 60–75 min.
- History: 11:00pm EST, 60-75 min.

Class Dates: Begin Monday, September 7, 2020; end Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Calendar: Classes will take place for 32 weeks and 64 classes on the following dates* --

September 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 (8)

October 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 (8)

November 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, [Thanksgiving Break] 30 (7)

December 2, 7, 9, 14, 16 [Christmas Break] (5)

January [Christmas Break], 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 (6)

February 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17 [Winter Break] (6)

March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, [Easter Break] (8)

April 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 (8)

May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 [End 2nd Semester] (8)

*The above classes will be provided by me or occasionally by a substitute teacher. In the unforeseen event that I cannot find a substitute teacher and must cancel a class (e.g. due to illness or family emergency), then I will record and post a make-up session, or offer the class at an alternate time.

5. Course Map

Literature	History
Quarter 1: September 7, 2020 – October 29, 2020	
Pre-America (Before 1600) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island of the Blue Dolphins Colonial Period (1630-1735) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Witch of Blackbird Pond Revolutionary America (1735-1791) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnny Tremain 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vol 1 Pre-History to 1600s Vol 2 Thirteen Colonies (1600-1735) Vol 3 Colonies to Country (1735-1791)
Quarter 2: November 2, 2020 – January 22, 2021	
Continue Revolutionary America (1735-1791) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnny Tremain Young Republic & Expansion (1783-1850) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bound for Oregon 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Vol 3 Colonies to Country (1735-1791) Vol 4 New Nation (1789-1850) Vol 5 Liberty for All (1820-1860)
Civil War & Reconstruction (1820-1866) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across Five Aprils OR Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman 	
Quarter 3: January 25, 2021 – March 19, 2021	
Industrial Revolution (1871-1920) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyddie WWI/Depression/Dust Bowl (1914-1933) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Willow or Hero Over Here New Deal & WWII (1933-1945) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Devil's Arithmetic 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vol 6 Terrible War (1855-1865) Vol 7 Reconstructing America (1865-1890) Vol 8 Age of Extremes (1880-1917)
Quarter 4: March 22, 2021 – May 28, 2021	
Continue New Deal & WWII (1933-1945) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Devil's Arithmetic Postwar America (1945-1960) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Watson's go to Birmingham 	A History of US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Vol 8 Age of Extremes (1880-1917) Vol 9 War, Peace, and All That Jazz (1918-1945) All the People (From 1945)

6. Student Mastery Portrait

Students of Middle School History and Literature practice a variety of complex skills which normally take many years to fully develop. Here are the skills which successful students of the course will develop at an age-appropriate level:

+ General scholarship skills

- Socratic Discussion: Formulate questions, define terms, offer examples, compare, contrast, and discover relationships between ideas
- Inspectional Reading: Skim, preview books, study the table of contents, search for information
- Analytical Reading: Identify key passages, terms, and definitions; outline a passage or short chapter; determine an author's message; evaluate key arguments
- Mark a text: Underline key terms; add marginal notes; annotate
- Composition: Keep a reading journal, compose a short narrative, respond in paragraph form to a prompt

+ History Skills

- Geography: Identify important information on historical maps
- Timeline: Follow a timeline of events which tells the story of the development of the United States of America
- Research: Become familiar with the methods of primary research used by historians and archaeologists
- Literacy: Learn the vocabulary of the specific period (names of people groups, political entities, wars, places, and artifacts) and general historical inquiry (especially economic, religious, and political concepts)
- Appreciation: Cultivate a sense of gratitude for the rich inheritance of Civilization which we enjoy today: art, architecture, science, religion, medicine, literature, philosophy, mathematics, law, ethics, education, and so much more

+ Literature Skills

- Reading comprehension: Practice reading and narrating passages from intermediate and moderately difficult texts from or inspired by classical antiquity
- Annotation: Learn to actively read and annotate literature using these steps:
 1. circle any vocabulary words that you are unfamiliar with or that you'd have trouble explaining to others
 2. underline key phrases
 3. keep track of the story or idea as it unfolds through a timeline or summary

4. note word patterns and repetitions or anything that strikes you as confusing or important
 5. write down questions in the margins or in your notebook
- Literary Analysis: Interpret texts using tools of literary analysis: character, theme, setting, plot development
 - Moral Philosophy: Weigh the decisions of literary characters according to standards of classical and Christian virtues and vices
 - Stylistic Development: Study and imitate the poetic and literary styles of classical authors

7. Student Assessment Categories

Name	Description	Frequency	Standard	Points
A. Reading (62%)				
Reading log/Annotation	Submit brief log of key terms, notes, quotes, outline, or short answer questions	2 per week	Completion	1
Reading journal	Write sentences or paragraphs in response to a reflection question	1 per week	Quality	1
Oral exam	Teacher or parent administered verbal Q & A (recorded)	1 per semester	Quality	14
B. Participation (24%)				
Participation	Teacher completed evaluation rubric regarding in-class observations (attendance, attention, contribution)	2 per quarter	Quality	5
Student review	Teacher completed evaluation rubric regarding general student performance (communication, work ethic, responsibility)	1 per semester	Quality	4
C. Composition (9%)				
Composition	Formal letter, essay, or narration; at least one draft and edit	3 per semester	Quality	3
D. Memory (5%)				
Recitation	Recite a poem or memory passage to the teacher or a parent; check memory of key terms, dates, and events	5 per semester	Completion	1

8. Virtual School Technology

All course materials can be accessed via our learning management system **Schoology** (www.schoology.com). The live virtual classroom will be the first link provided in the list of course materials. This will open a video conferencing application called **Zoom**. Students will receive an access code to the Schoology course in a separate e-mail from the teacher prior to the start of the course.

9. About the Instructor

Peter grew up on land in the warm chaparral of Southern California. He was introduced to the great works of the Western world through a Great Books program in high school. Peter studied English Literature at Covenant College and hopes to complete his Master's through a distance program at New Saint Andrews in the Summer of 2020. He enjoys painting, poetry, climbing, being in the woods, guitar, and watching the little unnoticed things of the world. He, his wife, Katie, and his son, Gabriel, currently live and teach in Cairo, Egypt and are planning on relocating for a Fluency in Ancient Greek program offered by Polis Institute in Jerusalem.

