

# American Literature

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide Center for Leadership and International Relations students with a challenging study of American literature. A variety of required and supplementary literary works will be used as the foundation for literary, expository, and creative writing. Required research papers will introduce major types of criticism, and student presentations will hone public speaking skills. Students will learn in a cooperative environment in which they will be expected to assume increasingly active leadership roles, encouraging them to problem solve, take risks, and share their views with others.

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Critical Thinking, Listening, Oral Communication, Problem Solving, Reading, Research, Technology, Writing

## APPLICATIONS/CONNECTIONS

### Mastery of these Standards/Indicators will allow the student to

- achieve success on the Standards of Learning Test;
- use research skills to gather data on a variety of topics both in and out of school;
- analyze and comprehend material read for pleasure, academics, employment, or general information;
- produce writing that is clear, concise, and easily understood by a variety of audiences for a variety of purposes;
- communicate effectively and persuasively in oral speech.

### Mr. Pete Schumacher

“I’m drawn to people who want to better themselves. Schools are almost set up like factories nowadays...I want my students to be thinkers and not just ‘do-ers’.”

Not many students can say their first day of English entails Dave Matthews in the background and an introduction to the meaning of life, but for Peter Schumacher this is only the beginning. Using thoughtful ways to convey ideas and lessons to his students, Mr. Schumacher provides a safe and warm atmosphere. He also allows students to think outside of the box and go beyond the accepted and expect more. Not only will students relate to songs, quotes, movies, and Schumacher’s own personal anecdotes, but even just from the acting out of *The Crucible* and applying lessons to modern day, they will leave each class feeling more confident and ready to take on life’s hurdles.

Mr. Schumacher is from Allentown, Pennsylvania. While most of his family were English teachers, Mr. Schumacher thought he would pursue a career as an oceanographer, accountant, or as a sports therapist. After graduating with a B.A. in English Education from Wake Forest University, he became a teacher. He loves teaching English because he loves the discussions and allowing students to think on a deeper level. What he enjoys most about the Leadership Center is his belief that the program sets you up to investigate your life and who you want to be.

What sets Mr. Schumacher apart as a leader is that he is not afraid to be himself in the classroom and share stories. Two interesting facts about Mr. Schumacher are that he is the Coach for the James River Varsity Baseball Team, and he has a dog named Radley.