

**Unit 1: Introductions****1 week****Sept 8 - 11**

- Personal introductions
- Intro to course
- Policies, procedures, platforms and norms

**Unit 2: Defining American Culture****1.5 weeks****Sept 14 - 22**

- Historical overview of American literary periods
- Read short pieces

**Unit 3: *Black Boy* [by Richard Wright]****2.5 weeks****Sept 22 - Oct 9**

- Literary concepts: indirect characterization, elements of nonfiction
- Episodic development
- Writing: an original episode

**Unit 4: Choice Novel: *Catcher* or *Bell Jar*****2.5 weeks****Oct 12 - 30***The Catcher in the Rye* [by J.D. Salinger] OR *The Bell Jar* [by Sylvia Plath]

- Literary Concepts: indirect characterization, symbolism, theme
- Essential question: How are Holden and or Ester's experiences like/ unlike Richard's?

**Quarter / Semester Final:** Essay: Compare / Contrast Holden or Ester and Richard, in light of the themes of American culture explored in Unit 2

**Semester ends November 6**