

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE** (English Composition & Grammar Credit)

**Pre-requisite:** ability to write coherent paragraphs and essays.

**Instructor:** Jo Anne Bennett; 918-381-5111

**Grades:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

**Fees:** \$30/month, plus one-time \$15 copy fee

**Literature Books:** (Used copies are fine, but be sure they are **unabridged!**)

***Carry on, Mr. Bowditch*** by Jean Lee Latham (New England during Am. Revolution)

***Gods and Generals*** by Jeff Shaara (Civil War)

***Our Town*** by Thornton Wilder (small town America, 1940s?, blessings of everyday)

***Bridge of San Luis Rey*** by Thornton Wilder (philosophical: is there a reason for everything?) (if time permits in the spring)

**Course Description:** Each week, students read assigned chapters and answer questions. In class we will discuss the readings. In addition, students will have writing assignments related to the book.

**Note:** late assignments will be penalized 10%.

**NOTE:** Studying a work of literature is different from merely reading a book. It involves researching the author to discover the philosophy behind his world-view. The theme will always carry the bias of the author and will have the potential to influence us in our view of God's providential intervention into the lives of men. Next, we look at the setting and background information which will clarify the plot and behavior of the characters. Often the setting plays a critical role in the plot – under other circumstances the outcome may have been very different. A concentrated examination of the character qualities of the personalities provides an opportunity to examine the fruit of Godly or unGodly behavior and ideas. The style of writing in great literature gives us a good role model for our speech patterns and allows us the opportunity to experience the thrill of well-spoken words