

AMERICAN LITERATURE - Fall Trimester 2018

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Course overview:

- .50 credit
- One trimester
- No prerequisite
- For students in grades 10-12

Students in this class will develop an understanding and appreciation of American Literature from Native American tales to post-World War II works. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of authors and texts. Students will engage in discussions as well as scholarly debates. Cooperative learning (group work) is an important part of this class and will help develop a student's leadership skills in addition to collaboration techniques. In addition to traditional methods of assessment, students will be encouraged to use their talents to demonstrate what they have learned. Among assessment possibilities are: acting, singing, drawing, graphic design, creative writing, etc. Through this combination of exposure to different periods of literature, critical thinking and creativity, members of this class will gain deeper insight and appreciation for American literature.

Supplies needed:

- One three-ring binder with lined paper for class notes and to organize handouts
- General supplies (pens—blue or black only, printer paper, etc.)

Textbook/Reading list: *not all may be used; some are books students can choose from*

- An extensive variety of short stories and poems
- *The Adventures of Huck Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- Selections from *Elements of Literature* textbooks
- Selections of firsthand accounts of American History texts

Video list (possible selections):

- *Great Gatsby*
- *Raisin in the Sun*
- *Huck Finn*
- Clips from other movies pertaining to classroom materials

State standards met in this course:

- I. Reading and Literature:
11.4.2.2; 11.4.3.3; 11.4.5.5; 11.4.9.9; 11.5.1.1; 11.5.4.4; 11.5.5.5; 11.5.6.6; 11.5.8.8; 11.5.9.9
- II. Writing:
11.7.1.1; 11.7.2.2; 11.7.4.4; 11.7.6.6; 11.7.7.7; 11.7.8.8; 11.7.9.9
- III. Speaking, Listening and Viewing
11.9.1.1; 11.9.2.2
- IV: Language Benchmarks
11.11.1.1; 11.11.2.2; 11.11.3.3; 11.11.4.4; 11.11.5.5; 11.11.6.6

Information that can be found on the course website:

Information that can be found on the course website includes a copy of this syllabus, contact information for Mr. Weber, weekly updated lesson plans, and documents for this class.

Classroom expectations:

Respect everyone and their opinions. Students are expected to actively participate in class on a daily basis. In order to fully participate in discussions and cooperative learning, students are required to complete reading assignments prior to class.

Homework expectations:

Students are responsible for all assigned work, and for turning it in on the specified date. Written assignments should be done neatly on standard loose-leaf paper (college- or wide-ruled, *no narrow-ruled paper!*) or typed. Students will be expected to type longer assignments.

Plagiarism & Cheating:

Students are expected to do their own work. Cheating on class work, on a test, or any other assignment will be dealt with according to academic policy. Students caught cheating on any class work will automatically receive a zero on that work with no opportunity to make up the lost points. Parents and school administration will be notified of the dishonesty and a referral will be written into the student's record.

Late work:

All assignments are expected to be handed in on the date they are due. Any assignment that is even one day late will receive a maximum of 65% credit; if an assignment is more than two weeks late, the amount of credit will be reduced accordingly.

Make-up work:

In the case of an excused absence, students have two days to getting and completing any missed work. Students have five school days to make up a missed test; two school days to make up a quiz. NOTE: Students must arrange with the teacher for a time to take a missed test/quiz. Class time will not be used for missed tests/quizzes! If tests/quizzes/assignments are not completed within the specified timeframe, the student may lose credit for that assignment. Any student with a legitimate reason for missing a paper or major project may arrange make-up assignments with the instructor. *The student is responsible for completing all assignments in a timely manner—if a student is absent and has additional time to turn in work, it does not mean the student receives additional time for future assignments assigned when the student is in school!*

Extra credit:

Extra-credit points will be available from time to time throughout the trimester. These are supplementary points and students should not count on them to be available.

Grading:

The AFSA grading percentage scale will be used to determine final grades. In general, the grading scale is: 90% or above=A; 80%=B; 70%=C; 60%=D; less than 60%=F. See the Student Handbook for more specific information.

Passes:

Students must use the student handbook for passes to the restroom, locker, or for a water break. Passes are limited to three per trimester per student. Passes are not to be used during lectures, class reading, speeches or class activities. Passes may not be used to meet with friends. Students using the pass for longer than 5 minutes may lose the privilege to use the hall pass.

