

## **American Literature**

### **Mrs. Hernandez**

#### **Course Scope:**

This one year course is a survey of American Literature from the beginning of the United States to the present. This class will trace the historical, political, and cultural development of the America as reflected in literature. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical judgment a defective writing skills. This course fulfills one of the English credits required for high school graduation.

**Textbooks:** Holt: Elements of Literature, 5<sup>th</sup> Course, variety of novels, and MLA handbook.

#### **Course Goals:**

1. To develop a broad knowledge of the American literary heritage.
2. To recognize the origins and development of American literature as a product of the political, social, and religious environment of the American people.
3. To recognize specific contributions of American culture and history of literature.
4. To understand forms and types of American poetry.
5. To recognize writing styles in fiction and non-fiction.
6. To expand vocabulary through literature.
7. To develop techniques of literary critique and evaluation.
8. To reinforce the steps in the writing process.
9. To expand reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
10. To write objectively and subjectively, using the reader's own experience, in response to selected literature.
11. To strengthen higher-level thinking skills through student writing and discussion of literature.
12. To respond with tolerance and respect to ideas and writings of others.
13. To develop an understanding of good character and ethics by responding to a wide variety of written and oral communication.

## **Course Outline:**

### *Quarter 1*

Colonial Period  
Multicultural Influences  
Puritanism  
The Crucible

### *Quarter 2*

Age of Reason  
Romantic Period  
Pre-Civil War  
Novel

### *Quarter 3*

Regional/Naturalism/Realism  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Short Story  
Novel  
Research

### *Quarter 4*

Research (continued)  
20<sup>th</sup> century novels  
20<sup>th</sup> century poetry

## **Course Information/Assignments/Evaluation:**

1. Students are to begin class with their notebooks on their desks. Opening assignments will be written on the board each day. These opening exercises will count toward daily participation points. Vocabulary quizzes will be administered throughout the quarter. Vocabulary words will also be on semester exams.
2. Spelling, grammar, and neatness will be important considerations in all written work. All written work must be complete with black ink.
3. Final copies of major assignments must be typewritten.
4. Notebooks will be kept and checked on a regular basis. Students are expected to organize, keep and use their notebooks on a regular basis.
5. A student is considered tardy when they are not in their seat when the tardy bell rings. No student should be out of their seat for any reason after the one minute warning bell.

### **Make-up Procedures:**

When a student is absent, the education experiences lost from class time are irretrievable and the instruction and interaction cannot be duplicated through makeup work (CCSD Regulation 5113). Make up work represents only a portion of the daily grade; for students with approved absences, the substance and grade value of make up work is subject to the teacher's discretion. Student with unapproved absences are entitled to make up work information, but will not receive any credit for participation work due to their truancy.

1. After any absence the student shall be required to initiate contact with school Instructors to obtain appropriate make up work within three school days directly following the students' return.
1. Within three days the student must discuss the missing work before school, or after school. The student must complete and turn in the missing work within three days. The work should be clearly labeled ABSENT on the top of the page.
2. All make-up work must have the appropriate slip filled out and fastened to the assignment or the assignment will not be graded.

\* Any student exceeding 10 unapproved absences will lose his/her semester credit in this course.

### **Grading Policy:**

Assessments of students' progress will be continuous throughout each quarter. Students' grades will be based on the following point system:

Daily Participation: 25% (punctuality, preparedness to work and conduct)  
Homework/class work: 40%  
Tests/quizzes: 35%

There will be no late work accepted. A student may turn in an assignment early, or by the end of the day on the due date.

Students' grades will be calculated with the following formula:

Number of points student earned=student percentage/grade  
Number of points possible in quarter

The following scale will be used to convert percentage grades into letter grades: A=90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= 0-59%.

Semester grades will be based on both quarter grades (40% each) and a semester exam worth 20%.

## **Classroom Behavior Expectations:**

Just a few simple rules:

1. NO FOOD OR DRINK MAY BE SOLD OR CONSUMED IN CLASS
2. NO HEADS DOWN IN CLASS
3. NO LEAVING THE ROOM WITHOUT A SIGNED PLANNER
4. NO HANGING OUT OR LINING UP BY THE DOOR BEFORE THE BELL RINGS
5. NO INTERRUPTING OTHER WHILE THEY ARE TALKING, ONLY APPROPRIATE SCHOOL LANGUAGE WILL BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM

If a student chooses to break one or more of the above rules, the following progressive discipline plan will be followed:

1. Verbal warning
2. Phone call to parent or guardian
3. Referral

All students involved in dishonest acts, which include copying homework, plagiarism, and cheating on exams will receive a zero grade on the assignment and an “Unsatisfactory” for the nine week grading period.

Cell phones are NOT to be used or seen during instructional time. If a student has a cell phone, it must be kept in the student’s backpack. Any cell phone seen or heard by the teacher will be confiscated and turned into the Dean’s office.

Students are expected to come to class prepared. If they must borrow something from another student it should be done before class starts, not during a discussion, etc.

If a student is tardy they will sign in and the progressive tardy policy used on campus will apply to the student. The following is the progressive tardy policy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> tardy = Student/Teacher conference
- 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy = Phone call home
- 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy = tardy assignment
- 4<sup>th</sup> tardy = Phone call home
- 5<sup>th</sup> tardy = Required Parent Conference

Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom to use the restroom without a planner. The hall pass portion of the planner must be attached to the rest of the planner, and I will only sign the hall pass portion not a “home made” hall pass. If there is a pattern of use with the hall pass parents will be notified and students will be encouraged to use the restroom only during passing period.

Students should expect to work until one minute before the bell rings. They should not pack up until instructed to do so. They should not write on their desk or treat any school district property disrespectfully.

Students are expected to be focused and ready learn at all times. Students completing work for another class will have that work taken away, and I will return it to the teacher that assigned it.

Students should not be writing notes during class. I will confiscate all notes and after three notes are collected I will send home a copy of the notes to the parent/guardian.

**Miscellaneous:**

Students and Parent/Guardians can check academic standing on Ed-Line or on my Web site. Web site instructions will be given in class.