



American Literature Course Syllabus



Class Blog: <http://msgauntt.weebly.com>

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Course Description

In this course, students will read and react to works of literature in order to better appreciate literature that is distinctly American, while also representing the wide array of cultures existing within our country. The class is fast-paced and challenging, requiring students to relate and apply reading content to history, culture, and current events. Coursework will include, narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical writing, as well as grammar skills, annotating and note-taking skills, vocabulary, and presentation skills. A variety of writing assignments will help the student develop increased proficiency in structuring and writing essays. Grammar study via NoRedInk and other educational activities and online apps will assist the students in their reading and writing skills as well.

Curriculum Addressed *The teacher reserves the right to make adjustments to course content as needed.

Literary & Informational Texts: various short stories, feature articles, websites, theatrical plays, historic U.S. journals, speeches, & documents, etc.

Conventions: MLA manuscript formatting, punctuation, clauses (dependent, independent), phrases (verbal & prepositional), agreement (pronoun/antecedent & subject/verb), sentence types, etc.

Writing: argumentative, expository, analytical, & narrative

Parallel Reading: In addition to textbook material, students will read county-approved works. Additional county-approved titles may be added to this list at the teacher's discretion. If your student is uncomfortable with the scheduled novels (listed below), he/she will be assigned an alternative novel.

Novel/Play List: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *The Color of Water* by James McBride

Movie Notice: There will be times when movie clips and movies will be shown to strengthen understanding of content and/or concepts. (Possible titles: *The Crucible*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, Pixar shorts, etc. – All are PG-13 or PG) If there is an issue with this, please inform the teacher asap so an alternative assignment can be provided.

Class Information

1. Turn in all work on time! While there is some leniency for work being turned in after excused absences, it is important that classwork is done in class and time is used wisely. There will be monthly cut off dates when any work before that time will no longer be accepted.
2. When absent, it is the **student's responsibility** to get the assignments and arrange time for make-ups. Please refer to any class platforms for assignments (teacher's blog, CTLS). Make up your work when you are absent and turn it in immediately. Email the teacher if you have clarifying questions regarding assignments!
3. All assignments and deadlines will be announced and posted on the class assignment calendar as well as on the blog. If an assignment is given before you are absent, you do not get additional days to complete the assignment if you are absent during the time allotted to complete it. If you return to school on the due date, the assignment is due at that time! If you return to school the day after it was due, the assignment is due the day you return.
4. CELL PHONES AND HEADPHONES/EARBUDS MUST NOT BE IN USE DURING CLASS UNLESS PERMITTED BY TEACHER FOR SPECIFIED LESSONS OR ACTIVITIES. CELL PHONES WILL BE PLACED IN THE PHONE POUCH AT STUDENTS' DESKS UPON ARRIVAL INTO THE CLASSROOM EVERY DAY UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY TEACHER! ANY STUDENT WHO REFUSES TO COMPLY WITH THE PHONE POLICY WILL BE REFERRED TO AN ADMINISTRATOR.

*Parents, please refrain from texting during class time or relay to your child that they can wait until permission is granted to take their phone out at a more conducive time to read your information.

5. Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated and are treated additionally with a discipline referral and failure of the assignment. Both the student copying and the one providing work to copy will receive zeroes. Please carefully review the CCSD policy on the school and/or county website.
6. Keep all handouts and notes organized in a binder. Keep everything until the last day of class. You may need them later. If you lose one, you are responsible for getting a copy from the blog.

7. Be involved and actively participate in class. Participation in discussions, activities, and assignments is part of the grades earned in class.
8. Classroom behavior should demonstrate maturity, responsibility, and **RESPECT**. This classroom is meant to be a **safe environment**. No fighting, arguing, bullying, mocking, or showing disrespect is allowed. The teacher requires us to follow "The Golden Rule" and treat other people like we would want to be treated ourselves. (Students may even be referred to an administrator if they should show anyone mistreatment or disrespect.)
9. If you have a **medical issue** that could affect your performance in class, please inform the teacher, understanding that she will be discreet about the issue.
10. Napping will NOT be tolerated.
11. Cursing and obscene language will NOT be tolerated.
12. This is a course based on learning and mastering the Georgia Common Core Standards. If you do the work and work to learn, your grades will reflect your mastery of the GCCS. Grades are updated on Synergy regularly.

Required Supplies for Class Daily

1. device (laptop/tablet) (Visit <https://parentvue.cobbk12.org> if you need a school-issued device.)
2. binder with notebook paper or notebook
3. blue/black pens, #2 pencils, and highlighters

Grading

Our gradebook includes a variety of balanced assessments, evaluations, and interventions to foster continuous improvement for all students. We use a variety of teaching methods to differentiate instruction, including (but not limited to) small group, collaboration, individualized reading selections, and student choice whenever possible and practical to ensure student achievement. **Grades in the class are weighted.**

30% Formative Assignments (classwork, homework, reading assignments, class opening activities, class discussions, class participation, etc.)

50% Summative Assignments (quizzes, tests, major writing pieces, projects)

20% EOC

Late Work

- Time in class is set aside for work sessions so students have access to assistance from the teacher. It is the expectation that work is done at that time and turned in as well. There will be times when work may need to be completed outside of class. Be sure to turn the work in when due.
- All work is due by the beginning of the class period. Items turned in after the start of class is considered late.
- Reassessment Guidelines: Students may retake summative assessments for a maximum score of 80%. (This does not apply to scores below 80% that are the result of late work, plagiarism, or cheating.)
- Late work is penalized according to the following guidelines. (This applies to formative and summative grades.)
 - 1 - 2 days late = 20% penalty 3 - 7 days late = 30% penalty 8 - 15 days late = 50% penalty

*Acceptance of work turned in more than 3 weeks late is NOT GUARANTEED; it is at the sole discretion of the teacher and may require a parent conference.

Bathroom Policy

It is recommended that students use the restroom before the start of class. However, in the event a student needs to use the restroom, they may go if direct instruction is not occurring. It is important that we maximize instructional time; if students are out of class, they may miss pertinent information. Students are required to follow the rules posted in class in order to sign out to leave the classroom. *Abuse of passes will not be tolerated.

Tardy Policy

Being prompt is a skill that must be groomed and should be exercised daily. It shows respect for both the individual and those with whom you associate. The SCHS tardy policy will be strictly enforced.

<p>General Classroom Guidelines/Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Phones and earbuds MUST be kept away unless the teacher gives permission. *Be respectful toward yourself and others. *Observe all school and classroom rules. 	<p>Consequences: when rules aren't followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. verbal warning 2. phone call to guardian 3. detention w/ phone call to guardian 4. referral (and zero on any assignment where cheating, plagiarism, etc. is involved) <p>*Some offenses may be severe enough that an automatic detention or direct referral is made.</p>
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American Literature Syllabus – Fall 2023

Parent/Student Signatures

(Please return this page to teacher after signing.)

Please fill out this page and return as soon as possible. Please sign to indicate that you have reviewed these class policies and understand the policies regarding absences, cheating, missed assignments, plagiarism, late assignments, tardy policy, class materials, watching movies, and grades. In addition, signing indicates you agree that use of class work, videotaping, or photographing is an activity in which your student can participate. You also agree that it is the student's full responsibility to keep up with all assignments as listed on the assignment calendar provided by the teacher.

Student's Name: _____ (please print)

Student's Signature: _____

Guardian's Name: _____ (please print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Home Number ____--____--____ **Cell Number** ____--____--____

PLEASE PROVIDE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS

In an effort to foster better parent-teacher communication, I am requesting an email address from at least one parent/guardian for each of my students. Given our hectic daily schedules, it is often easier to respond with an email rather than waiting for one of the few phone lines in the school to become available. My classroom computer is up and running for the entire school day and offers me the opportunity for a **much faster response time to your questions and concerns about your student.**

Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Guardian's Email Address: _____@_____

SYNERGY (ParentVue & StudentVue) ACCOUNTS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Every SCHS student is issued an online account so they may check on grades at any time. Parents may use those same student accounts or **sign up for one of their own** to allow **daily access to student grades and attendance for all class periods. Regular attention to grades, attendance, and overall student performance is critical to a student's success in his/her courses.**