

## **Syllabus- English 130 American Literature**

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### **Required Course Texts and Materials:**

Holt Elements of Literature; Essentials of American Literature 5<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Developmental Exercises to Accompany A Writer's Reference [Paperback] Diane Hacker  
A Writer's Reference with 2009 MLA and 2010 APA Updates [Plastic Comb] Deane Hacker

### **Novels provided by HHS:**

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
The Crucible by Arthur Miller  
Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers  
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane  
Mythology by Edith Hamilton

### **Students should purchase:**

3-Ring Binder  
15 Tab divider inserts  
USB (Flash Drive)  
Writing Implements (pens and pencils)  
College-Bound paper

### **Course Description**

This course will survey selected American authors representing the major periods, schools, and traditions in American literary history. Our texts will span the pre-colonial eras (before European colonization in the 1600s) to our contemporary era; include multiple genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama); and be race- and gender-inclusive. Some attention will also be paid to the historical/cultural contexts of the literary periods.

### **Class Participation**

A successful class depends on your participation--your observations and questions and willingness to explore new ideas in relation to the assigned readings. Therefore, it is crucial that you keep up with the reading assignments. When you get in there and respond to what you have read, literature comes alive.

### **Late Papers/Exams Policy:**

Late papers will be graded down one letter grade for each day they are late.

### **Classroom Rules: Discipline, Respect, and Responsibility**

1. Respect other student's comments, opinions, and ideas.
2. Do not show disrespect with gestures or forms of any kind.
3. Surprise others by performing random acts of kindness.
4. Follow along when we read together in class.
5. No swearing.
6. No sleeping.
7. No cell phones/IPods (ringing or visual)- No electronic devices.
8. Come to class on time and prepared to work.
9. Give effort in class participation, assignments and attendance.
10. Learn from your mistakes and move on.

### **Assignments**

- This class includes a variety of assessments including: projects, tests, quizzes, notebook quizzes, and homework (daily).
- There are no extra credit assignments available.

### **Grading Policy**

**(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)**

\*Grades are on a weighted scale for 80% going toward graded assignments (test, quizzes, notebook quizzes, projects) and 20% going toward homework assignments.

\*Homework is checked daily based on completion and will not be accepted late.

### **Rough Course Outline:**

Semester 1 and 2 Units:

The Colonial Era

The Revolutionary Period

Romanticism/ Transcendentalism

Semester 3 and 4 Units:

The Rise of Realism

The Modern Age

The Harlem Renaissance

\*This outline is subject to change at the teacher's discretion.

**Areas Addressed in this course will include the following:**

- Nonfiction: various works
- Short Stories: various work
- Drama: The Crucible, Death of a Salesman, Hamlet
- Novels: Numerous in class and including summer reading
- Poetry: various works
- Independent novel analysis
- Personal narrative informal essay
- Definition essay
- Mini-research essay
- Compare and contrast essay
- Literary analysis essay
- Persuasive essay
- Literary analysis essay
- Research essay

**Essential Questions**

- \* How is the history of America reflected in the literature?
- \* How does the literature reflect American idealism?
- \* How is the style of American literature unique in form?
- \* What are the responsibilities of effective writers?
- \* What are the traits of strong academic writing?

**Course Objectives**

- \* Students will learn about specific American authors and selected works.
- \* Students will explain authors' ideas and concepts in relation to significant literary and historical periods.
- \* Students will interpret authors' techniques and their works. Students will intelligently discuss the authors and their works. Students will organize and write effective critiques of selected works. Students will learn specific expository forms such as:
  - a. Process
  - b. Definition
  - c. Frame narrative
  - d. Comparison contrast
  - e. Classification
  - f. Cause and effect
  - g. Persuasion
  - h. Description
  - i. Critique & Analysis

\* In addition, students will learn and demonstrate those skills needed to successfully complete a research assignment.