

Syllabus- English 136
Honors American Literature

Instructor: Mrs. M. Schaeffer
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Required Course Texts and Materials

Textbook provided by Huron High School:

Holt Elements of Literature; Essentials of American Literature 5th 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

Required Summer Reading (Students required to acquire novels):

Mythology by Edith Hamilton

My Antonia by Willa Cather

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Novels provided by HHS:

Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

1984 by George Orwell

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Students should purchase:

3-Ring Binder

15 Tab divider inserts

USB (Flash Drive)

Writing Implements (pens and pencils)

Lined paper (college bound)

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. The reading, analysis and writing required in this honors class will be structured more rigidly than the standard American Literature course. Students will be expected to keep up with the increased pace and requirements in order to successfully complete this honors course.

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.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

(Including required prior knowledge or skills)

A 3.5 average in American Lit 120 or 126, teacher recommendation, high interest in analysis and writing about imaginative works of literary merit. Passion for reading and a desire to understand the craft of writing is a **must**.

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

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

A. Knowledge

1. Become familiar with selected major and minor writers of each period
2. Become familiar with the presentative literary work or works of each author
3. Become acquainted with such literary forms as narrative and lyric poetry, short stories, and essays
4. Become familiar with literary devices or reinforce the knowledge of these devices, such as figures of speech, meter, symbolism, allusion, and foreshadowing, stream of consciousness, and flashback

5. Become acquainted with significant ideas of each period in order to determine the reason for an author's position on a given subject
6. Become familiar with important social conditions of each period in order to understand the authors
7. Be aware of the geographical, economic, and social influences on the development of American literature
8. Be aware of significant themes in American literature: idealism, sin and retribution, individualism, materialism, etc
9. Understand the main characteristics of romanticism, realism, and naturalism

B. Skills

1. Be able to show how contemporary literary forms have evolved from past forms
2. Be able to evaluate the quality of literary works by comparing them with the recognized best in that genre
3. Be able to show the relationship between an author's life and the philosophy of the time in which he lived and his literary works
4. Given the knowledge that literature is inseparably linked to history and is generated from a specific historical period, the student should be able to discern historical events and influences as depicted--explicitly or implicitly--in literature
5. Given this knowledge of the historical perspective of American literature, the student should be able to analyze, interpret, and perhaps better understand the problems of the contemporary American scene
6. Be able to write an acceptable critical analysis of a novel from the standpoint of style, content, and mechanics