

American Literature
Semester I
Course Syllabus 2009-2010
Ms. Martin / Room 410
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This is a challenging course designed for juniors to benefit from a knowledge of the American tradition in literature, and to form the ability to respond to the literature on both personal and analytical levels. Class activities will consist of reading various kinds of literary works, developing grammar and vocabulary, and mastering essays that respond to and analyze literature. Students in this course are expected to be responsible for their grades by completing all homework tasks assigned and actively participating in class discussion.

Required Reading Materials:

- *The Language of Literature* by McDougal, Little
- Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter

Units of Study/Class Activities:

- Explorers/Puritans
- Revolutionary Period
- Romanticism
- Transcendentalism & Gothic Literature
- ACT Preparation
- D.E.A.R.

Daily Supplies:

- Notebook
- Folder
- Loose-leaf paper
- Blue or black ink pens

Grading Percentage Breakdown:

Homework: 10%
Quizzes: 20%
Tests: 25 %
Products: 30%
Final Exam: 15%

Grading Scale:

90-100 **A** 80-89 **B** 70-79 **C** 60-69 **D** 59 or below **F**

Late Work Policies: ALL HOMEWORK, ESSAYS, OR READING ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD ON THE DAY THAT THEY ARE DUE.

- **Homework:** Homework assignments will be accepted up to four days late with a deduction of 10% credit per day. If the assignment is not turned in after four days, it will no longer be accepted and will go in the gradebook as an "nhi," which is equivalent to a 49%.
- **Quizzes and Tests:** In the event of an excused absence, quizzes and tests can be made up within a reasonable amount of time anytime during a unit. Quizzes and tests from previous units may not be made up and will receive zero credit.

- **Products:** Major essays and projects will be accepted up to one week late with a 10% deduction in the grade per day. Essays or other major projects will not be accepted after a week and will be entered in the gradebook as a zero. **In order to be considered on time, all essays must be turned in to turnitin.com as well as printed and turned in as a hard copy. Essays in emails and/ or on flash drives will not be accepted unless otherwise noted.** **
- **Absences:** For excused absences, the number of days to make up work will coincide with the number of days absent. For unexcused absences, work due on and assigned on the given day, will not be accepted and will receive a zero. If a student has an excused absence on the day that a long-term essay or project is due, the assignment will be due the day that the student returns.

Classroom Rules:

1. Use your words appropriately
2. Turn all electronic devices off when the bell rings
3. Listen while others speak
4. Be responsible for your grade
5. Keep the classroom clean

Tardies: being in class on time is essential to your success as well as your peers' success in class.

- First and second tardies are warnings
- Third tardy is a detention and a call home
- Fourth tardy is a referral to dean and a two hour ASA
- Fifth tardy is a referral to dean and a Saturday detention
- Sixth tardy and beyond will be a referral to the dean and may result in being dropped from the class to a study hall

Electronic /communication devices: while cell phones and personal music players are often beneficial in many circumstances, their use has no purpose in the classroom.

- First offense- Warning
- Second offense- Detention/Phone call home
- Third offense- Dean referral, ASA or Saturday, parent call
- Fourth offense- Dean referral, Saturday or CC, parent call, student final contract
- Fifth offense- Dean referral, final contract, parent contact, may be dropped from class

Routines and Procedures:

- Take a seat before the bell rings
- Read the board for the day's agenda and instructions for the beginning of class
- Take out materials and listen for verbal instructions
- Stay seated throughout the class period unless told otherwise
- Wait until you are given the "Okay" to pack up materials

Office Hours: Classroom 410 / Office 412

Time for extra help: Mondays from 3:30-4:30 in the media center.

Or you can email me anytime to discuss an assignment. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to you. Don't wait until the last minute!!

Please sign and date, notifying me that you have read and understand all of the above policies. Don't throw this away!

Signature _____ Date _____