

Contemporary American Lit Course Syllabus

Course Description: The curriculum for Contemporary American Lit covers American literature from the 1920s to the present. The course will focus on reading, written and oral response, language study, and vocabulary. Each unit is designed for students to learn to be thoughtful and analytical readers, writers, and speakers. The literature selected for this course comes in short story, essay, drama, and poetic forms.

Course Objectives: Students are expected to:

- Identify, interpret, and use literal & figurative, denotative & connotative meanings of words; understand word derivations.
- Read & understand grade-level-appropriate material & analyze structural patterns.
- Analyze text to find literal meaning, sequence of events, main idea, details, cause & effect, themes, symbolism & argument.
- Read & analyze documents, find sources, develop bibliographies for research report.
- Know, understand and employ terms such as: voice, persona, plot, tone, point of view, imagery, allegory, symbolism, foreshadowing, narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, tone, and mood.
- Analyze works of literature in terms of themes and issues of historical context.
- Students write coherent & focused essays w/main ideas developed within body of composition through supporting evidence.
- Integrate quotations & citations into written text.
- Write biographical or autobiographical narratives or short stories; responses to literature; expository compositions; persuasive compositions; analytical essays & research reports; business letters.
- Students formulate accurate judgments about oral communication; deliver focused and coherent presentations that convey clear & distinct perspectives and demonstrate solid reasoning; use gestures, tone & vocabulary tailored to the audience & purpose.

Supplies and Materials Needed:

- 3-ring binder (1 inch)
- Loose-leaf paper
- Dark blue or black pens
- Pencils

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Computer Use: Computers will be used on assignments only. Work for other classes is permitted with a note from the teacher assigning homework. Likewise, notes for study hall computer usage will only be issued for paper or project assignments unless specified during the homework assignment. With only five laptops available for students to take home by the library, issues laptops notes will be on priority need. Failure to adhere to school and classroom policies over computer usage will be grounds for the dismissal of the privileges.

Attendance: Students that must miss class should make arrangements ahead of time to get assignments completed in a timely manner. If class is missed the student must be prepared to turn in his/her homework upon return. If further time is needed it is necessary to discuss it with the teacher as soon as possible.

Tardiness: Students must be in their seats before the bell ends or a tardy will assigned.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism is defined as the "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." It is illegal and will be cause for failure on the assignment in which it has occurred. Cheating, likewise, will be cause for failure if it occurs

Electronic Devices:

- No cell phones whatsoever
 - Place cell phones in the hanger on the door. Each student will have their own pocket.
 - Failure to place phone in hanger will result in confiscation and/or detention.
 - They will be confiscated if they appear to be present or they announce themselves in any way (ring, vibrate, buzz, click, sing, etc.)
 - At times phone usage will be granted but only at the discretion of the teacher
- iPods are allowed with limited use and only under the direction of the teacher:
 - Never during instructional time, group work, class activities
 - One in One out rule with headphones
 - NO APPS other than music
 - Keep it to yourself (It is nice of you to share but it distracts from individual work)
 - No iPods or cell phones during exams

Class Guidelines:

Students are expected to:

- Come to class prepared everyday with their proper materials
 - Leave food and drink (with the exception of water) in your locker
- Be on time- sitting in seats before the bell rings.
- Be respectful to all others in the classroom including teacher, peers, paraprofessionals, and any other class guests.
- Complete homework during designated time- not during lecture. Use in-class homework time properly. Once the assignment is finished have something else for which to work.
- Be silent until permission to speak is granted by the teacher.
- Remove hats upon entering the classroom
- Stay seated until otherwise directed.
 - If students cannot fulfill these guidelines consequences will be applied. Consequences include removal from the classroom, visit to the principal, detention, or Saturday school.

GRADING POLICIES

Late work is only accepted after one day and will be graded with 20% less. After the extra day, the late assignment will be graded at as 50% deduction only if the student has attended homework club to complete the assignment and has made arrangements with the teacher. If the student has not made any effort to complete the work within a week of the due date or not made arrangements with the teacher, the assignment will not be accepted. Students are not permitted to work on assignments together unless otherwise designated by the teacher. If students work with each other on assignments and turn in the same work it will be treated as a case of cheating and the policy will apply the same.

Grading Scale:

A 94-100	B- 80-83	D+ 68-69
A- 90-93	C+ 79	D 65-67
B+ 87-90	C 73-78	D- 60-64
B 84-86	C- 70-72	F 59 and below

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Sarah Dahl

English Teacher

sarah.dahl@livingston.k12.mt.us

Hours available: 7:45 to 8:15, 11:05-12:35, 1:35-2:25, 3:20-5:00

Parent/Guardian and Student: Please sign, remove this page, and return to Mrs. Dahl for a grade.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____