

American Literature

2010-2011

Mr. Tony Gacayan

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Course Description

American Literature is about students learning a variety of reading and writing skills through the frame of the American experience. We study many different texts from various time periods – poems from colonial America to plays written in the modern age. These texts will give us the basis to practice reading skills such as visualization, summarization, making connections, and making inferences. We will also practice various writing types, such as persuasive, reflective, biographical, analytical, and research.

Grading

50% - Essays (Includes larger, end of unit essays and mini essays completed in and out of class)
25% - Homework Notebook (Includes Connection Journal and daily classroom writing checks)
20% - Tests and Quizzes (Includes quizzes/pop-quizzes and tests over our authors/novels)
5% - A.R. (Includes independent reading. 15 points each quarter = 30 points total for the semester)

Quarter 1: 45% of Semester Grade

Quarter 2: 45% of Semester Grade

Semester Final: 10% of Semester Grade

Course Outline (1st Semester)

Most of our texts appear in the McDougal Littell *American Literature* anthology

-Stories and essays from 1850's onward.

-Authors such as Frederick Douglass, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, and more.

-We will study regionalism, the Harlem Renaissance, and contemporary literature

Please note that this class will require heavy use of a computer and printer, so if your home does not have immediate access to either, please contact me. Assignments will not be excused if there are printer problems, so please make other arrangements (such as printing at school through e-mail/USB).

If you have further questions, concerns, or comments, you can always e-mail me at tonygacayan@ccs-rams.org

Parent/Guardian Signature

Material Checklist

- Spiral/Composition Notebook (100-200 pages) ***Please do not share this notebook with other classes, as I will often collect and keep it for a short period of time to grade.***
- Ballpoint pens and #2 Pencils
- The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (please purchase as soon as possible)
- Sticky Notes (Optional but recommended for note-taking)

Classroom Policies:

Due to the level of this class and the grades that it is being taught to there are certain expectations that are to be met.

1. RESPECT- respect your fellow students, respect the teacher, respect the material, respect the texts. Respect the opinions and thoughts of others as well from the books.
2. Be reasonable- in general be reasonable with tasks at hand as well as with your fellow students.
3. Cooperation- along the lines of reason, working with others will be mandatory so do not expect a lack of cooperation.
4. Class participation- please raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking or asking a question.
5. Be on task and ready to work, punctual to class and when turning in work.
6. I expect kindness and respect to other students, to yourselves, to the classroom, to teachers, to other adults, and to God.
7. I expect you to come prepared for class each day, with all materials ready, all reading assignments completed, and all questions answered.
8. I expect you to listen respectfully to others while they are speaking.
9. I expect you to turn in work you can be proud of.
10. I expect honesty.

Missing Work

Any work that is not turned in will earn only 25% of the final grade for that assignment. But having missing/incomplete work may result in exclusion from class events/activities/projects until all work is turned in and complete.

Tardies

Please come to class before the bell rings. Come prepared with all materials, and be sure to use the bathroom beforehand. Coming to class late or unprepared may result in a tardy from the office.

Cheating

Cheating, in any form, is disrespectful to 1) the teacher, since I have put a lot of work into teaching you and expect more from you, 2) yourself, since you deny the opportunity to try your best, and 3) God, who loves you and wants you to live righteously. Cheating in any form, whether getting answers to a test/quiz, copying someone's homework, or plagiarizing an essay, is unacceptable and will result one of two consequences:

- 1) You will redo the assignment for completion, but will still receive a grade of 25% or lower (possibly 0%) and discussion with teacher/principal.
- 2) Suspension/Expulsion