**American Literature Syllabus**

**Wheeler High School**

**Fall 2019**

**Ms. Jennifer Sellman**

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**Rm 2073**

**Course Description**

American Literature and Composition will continue to build on the reading and language curriculum established in ninth and tenth grade. Honors American Literature is designed for the college-bound student and will emphasize careful reading and critical analysis of literature at a level appropriate for the eleventh grade. Throughout this course, students will have opportunities to develop and expand their knowledge of American literature and demonstrate their mastery level of new learning through performance tasks and assessments. At the completion of this course, students will take the American Literature and Composition End-of-Course assessment required by state law.

**Course Objectives**

The focus of this class is *depth rather than breadth*. While every effort will be made to address all aspects of the syllabus, time constraints, student absences, and unforeseen circumstances may require revisions of the syllabus as the semester unfolds. The learning goals and standards of each unit should be addressed; however, some pieces may be removed or revised.

**We will cover the following units throughout this semester:**

Unit 2: The Power of Persuasion (*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller)

Unit 4: The Pursuit of Happiness (collection of essays, art, and poetry)

Unit 3: American Forums: The Marketplace of Ideas (collection of works and articles)

Unit 1: The American Dream (*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald)

Unit 5: An American Journey (*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston)

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**Cobb County Grading Scale**

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-74 D = 73-70 F = 69 and below

In accordance with Core Curriculum Standards students will be evaluated on the following:

**Reading Summative 20%**

CC Standards:

* Key Ideas and Details
* Craft and Structure
* Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
* Range of Reading/Text Complexity

**Writing Summative 25%**

CC Standards:

* Text Types and Purposes
* Production/Distribution
* Research/Present Knowledge
* Range of Writing

**Language /Speaking/Listening Summative 5%**

CC Standards:

* Conventions of Standard English
* Knowledge of Language
* Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
* Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

**Formative (Daily Work/Homework/Quizzes) 30%**

**End-of-Course Assessment (EOC) 20%**

This is the milestone test that is given by the state to ensure you have learned the required material for American Literature and Composition course.

**Classroom Guidelines and** **Expectations**

1. **Be Here**: your absence from the classroom has a negative impact on your grade.
   1. **Tardy**: ***You will need to be in your seat when the bell rings or you will be considered tardy***. Bags on your desk will not count as being on time. 5 tardies will receive an administrative referral and a call home. If a student comes to class 15 minutes late without a pass, they will be referred for skipping class.
   2. **Late Work**: It is **your responsibility** to turn in completed work to me. Late work will not be accepted without penalty (-5% off late same day, -15% off next day). See below for further clarification.
2. **Be respectful:** class time is reserved for learning – EVERYONE should have a chance at academic success
   1. Raise your hand before talking or leaving your seat
   2. Do not talk while the teacher is talking
   3. Listen to directions
   4. Phones are put away during working time
   5. Use your words wisely: Swearing or snide comments are not respectful and will be addressed.
3. **Be prepared**:
   1. Have a pen or pencil ready to go (sharpened, in working order)
   2. Have materials out: composition notebook, loose-leaf paper, handouts from the previous day
      1. Handouts are available on my blog or will be in a crate in the classroom. Students should have the habit of looking in the crates (there are folders for each day in the month) before class begins.
   3. Students will not be allowed to leave for the restroom the first and last 15 minutes of the class period per Administration policy.

**Consequences**

This is the order of consequences. However, if I feel that you are totally disrupting the classroom or putting anyone in danger, I reserve the right to skip any of the consequences on the list and go straight to an office referral.

1. Verbal warning 2. Phone call to the parent. 3. Office referral.

**Late Work:**

If you have missed class, here are the policies:

* Check the blog for any assignments/handouts you need and/or email me for information
* You have the amount of days you were absent plus one day to make up your assignment/test
* I will put in a zero for your grade until it is made up in the appropriate time frame
* If your assignment is late, you will receive -5% if it is turned in by the end of the day, or -15% after that due date.
* The semester has three six-week periods. You will have six weeks to make up an assignment or test (late penalties apply) within that period. I will remind you in the classroom, blog, and Remind before the deadline. Once the deadline has passed, I will not accept late work from that time period. Deadline dates are as follows: 9/13, 11/1, and 12/13 (this is one week early due to finals and time needed for grading).

**Plagiarism**

All work completed for a grade must be completed by the student wishing to receive the grade. Plagiarism is the use of another author’s (student’s) words or ideas without giving credit where credit is due. If any portion of the assignment is plagiarized, I will give a zero for the **entire assignment to everyone involved**. Unless it is specifically designated as a group assignment, I will not accept “we worked together” for work that is abundantly similar on multiple papers. Administration will also be notified of the incident. Any phones out during a test or quiz will be considered plagiarism, and the student will receive a zero.

**Remediation Policy**

To receive an opportunity of recovery (i.e. re-attempt a failing or unsatisfactory grade), you must attend one session for formative work or two sessions for summative work in either Learning Links or Grad Point. Learning Links is offered after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the cafeteria. You must have the teacher who tutors you sign to verify your attendance.

**Grade Conferences**

If you do not agree with a grade you have earned, you may schedule a grade conference. The grade conferences may only be scheduled a day after a student has received his/her grade. You may set up an appointment with me before school. I will do my best to grade all assignments within one week, all written assignments within two.

## Leaving the Classroom

No student is allowed to leave the room first and last 15 minutes of class. Only one student will be allowed out at a time. You will need a pass or lanyard to be able to leave the class.

Bathroom passes are handed out at the beginning of the semester. Students have 10 opportunities to leave class. These 10 times include “emergencies.” It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with these passes. When you need to use a pass, come up to me with the pass filled out and ready for me to sign. I will not sign post-its, random papers, etc. If you do not have your pass, do not approach me until you do. If you turn in an unused pass at the end of the semester, I will provide 10 points toward a summative assessment during the semester.

**Phone Policy**

Phones are to be placed in the backpacks and in the front of the room at the beginning of class. If there are extenuating circumstances that you need your phone, please talk to me in between classes and we will work something out. There is a charging station at the front of class students are welcome to use; however, the phone must stay there for the block. If you have a phone out without permission, you will receive a consequence. If a phone is out during while the class is taking a test or quiz, the phone will be confiscated and the student will receive a 0 for the assignment. No exceptions.

**Help Sessions:**

I am generally here before and after school. If a student needs additional help for a lesson, I am happy to sit and help clarify lesson points. Please check with me before or after class, and we will find a time we can both be available.

**To my students**:

I am excited to be your teacher this year! I absolutely love teaching American Literature.

I want you to know that I will do what I can to help you succeed this semester. I am working on including some different strategies to increase your involvement in our material. I hope you develop an appreciation for American Literature as it is a foundational lens to help observe our country and our culture, past and present.

For me to help you the most, I need you to communicate with me. You might want to talk to me directly, or you might want to send me an email to help me understand where can help you most effectively. I am interested in who you are and your interests so that I can incorporate them into our classroom. The more I know, the more we can work together for your success.

This will be an exciting and challenging semester. American Literature will test your skill set and help you gain new ones. The best advice I can give is to let me know as soon as possible if you do not understand an assignment or a text we are reading. However, if you hit a snag, please let me know sooner rather than later. I will help you to the best of my abilities to complete the activities and deliver the best score possible at the end of the semester.

I am looking forward to having you in class and working together for the best American Literature semester!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sellman

Student Name (print): Student Signature:

Parent Name (print): Parent Signature: