



**Contemporary Literature
Spring 2023**

Ms. Jaclyn Hoffman

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Google Classroom code: [pdbzm5e](#)

T/Th 4:00-5:30; Room 207

Welcome to Contemporary Literature! In this class, we will look at literature and media from the 21st century and explore current issues. Because we live in a diverse, dynamic world, we will consider not only our own perspectives, but the perspectives of those around us. Our goal will be to interrogate what we believe about ourselves and others and *why* we believe those things.

Course Objective:

The aim of this course is for students to consider how and why writers translate our current societal moment - the challenges, anxieties, difficulties, and victories - into fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and other media.

Course Outcomes:

- Students will read a wide range of print and non-print literary texts from the contemporary period to develop a better understanding of self and to build an understanding of the many dimensions of the contemporary American experience.
- Students will produce original work in several genres.
- Students will continue to hone research skills and present their findings.
- Students will engage in respectful and meaningful academic discourse, demonstrating an understanding of and respect for diversity.
- Students will collaborate with peers to produce original works.
- Students will reflect on their learning and growth through the semester.

**Adapted from Adult Education Portrait of a Graduate and LHS English standards*

Course Texts & Materials:

Texts for this course *may* include:

- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
- Excerpts from: *Punching the Air* by Yusuf Salaam and Ibi Zoboi; *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson; *We Are Not From Here* by Traci Chee; *Apple: Skin to the Core* by Eric Gansworth
- *Just Mercy* (2019), directed by Destin Daniel Cretton
- *Deadly Secrets: The Lost Children of Dozier* (2016), directed by Heidi Burke



- Poetry selections from sources including: the Academy of American Poets; Poetry 180; Poetry Foundation; Button Poetry; contemporary poetry anthologies
- Short story selections from sources including: *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction*, *The New Yorker*, *Fresh Ink*, and other contemporary short story anthologies
- Nonfiction and other materials from contemporary media

Class Expectations and Guidelines:

- Phones should be away at all times. This is a program-wide rule and will be enforced.
- Bring a pencil or pen to class every day.
- All school rules and regulations are enforced in this classroom. All school safety protocols and procedures must be followed.
- Be on time and be prepared for class.
- Hand in assignments on time. If you are not able to meet due dates, please discuss with me and I will work with you.
- Be respectful to everyone in class.
- Please have an open mind. Be prepared to think critically and creatively.
- Participate in class. The more you put into class, the more you get out of class.
- Complete all assignments. Remember, I can only give you credit for what you've done.

Make-Up Work:

If you are absent, please keep an eye on Google Classroom for any assignments. Upon return to school, we will discuss make-up work and set an appropriate due date.

Grading Procedure:**20% Formative Work (e.g., classwork, short assignments, discussions)**

Formative assessments capture a student's progress throughout the learning process and inform to what extent a student has learned a concept or skill. Formative work incorporates work completed inside and outside of class and is foundational for future success on a summative assessment.

80% Summative Work (e.g., essays, projects, Socratic Seminars, etc.)

Summative assessments are comprehensive, performance-based measures that demonstrate what a student knows and is able to do. These assessments should be linked to one or more of the competencies as recognized by the Adult Education portrait of a graduate.

I look forward to a great semester!