

American Literature
Syllabus 2021-22
Dr. Jamey VanZandt, Teacher

Room C127

VPG Office C114A

School: 618-244-3700 Ext 2118/ Cell Phone: 618-316-9774/ e-mail: jvanzandt@mvths.org

“Read, read, read. Read everything - trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it is good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out the window.”

William Faulkner (1897-1962) American novelist and short-story writer

Course Description

American Literature is a survey course of literature composed by American authors from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, from 1800 to present day.

Instructor Information

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Course Objectives

Students in American Literature will develop critical thinking skills as various texts written by American writers are read, discussed, examined, and written about.

Students will also receive preparatory training throughout the year for the SAT in the spring.

Grading Procedures:

American Literature students are expected complete assignments on time and to be prepared at all times – for discussions, with on-going short-term and long-term assignments, and, of course, with the texts and writing projects. *Late work is not acceptable.* Unless excused due to illness or other excused absence, assignments that are not ready to present or not turned in on time will result in a 10% reduction in whatever grade the work achieved at that time, and/or adhere to the MVTHS Communication Arts Late Work Policy (August 2021). Students may request one extension per quarter if needed, and the request should be made before the due date. If issues exist beyond what is stated here, please email the instructor and a plan will be developed for the work. Do not expect to submit large amounts of late work for the entire quarter the week before the grade period ends, both at the mid quarter point and end of quarter. **Students are highly encouraged to turn in late assignments within 5 days from the due date.**

Grading Scale:

Based on a percentage of total possible points for a nine-week period:

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
59% and below	= E

Course Outline

Quarter One

Short Stories

“The Life You Save May Be Your Own” by Flannery O’Connor

“Pumpkin Head” by Joyce Carol Oates

Quarter 2

Drama

The Trip to Bountiful by Horton Foote

Quarter 3

Poetry

Reading and Discussing Poems

Writing Poem Drafts of Twelve Types

Creating a Poetry Portfolio

Quarter 4

Nonfiction

Tuesdays with Morrie

Activities

IEP/504 Accommodations

Students with an IEP or 504 Plan *may* have individualized accommodations. There are some embedded features on Chromebooks which can help such as Google Read & Write (purple puzzle piece on the toolbar with an "rw") to read material aloud. Contact your teacher for due dates regarding extended time and to discuss accommodations.

Policy on Late Work

Assignments will be updated on Google Classroom, and students should begin there. Paper copies of handouts are available in Room C127. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain needed materials and turn in missed work.

Quarantine Learning Plan*

*This plan is only available to students on an approved plan through the Nurse’s Office

Daily Work: Major assignments can be located on the Google Classroom

Projects: Major assignments can be located on the Google Classroom

Tests: This class does not have any tests, except for a Semester Exam

Materials: Materials can be located in syllabus on the Google Classroom

Due Dates: Due Dates can be located on the Google Classroom

Technology Assistance: Please contact Tech Services at 246-1812 or email Gina Williamson at gwilliamson@mvths.org