

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

American Literature and Composition

Instructor: Mrs. Rosen

Room: 215

Contact: arosen@henry.k12.ga.us

Why Do We Have a Class in American Literature?

To truly understand a society you have to understand its culture—what they value, the way they think, and how they express themselves. Historically, literature is the most widely experienced form of art. Thus, to understand each other as Americans, we must have some knowledge of the literature, as well as other art forms, that have affected the development of American society from the very beginning.

Course Description:

This course covers a variety of genres, writers, literary devices, and time periods associated with the evolution of American literature. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on developing and refining both analytical and critical reading skills, as well as writing skills – all of which are necessary for success in future endeavors associated with higher education and career opportunities.

Class Rules, Procedures and Etiquette:

- ★ Come to class daily prepared with fully charged laptop, paper, pen/pencil, and completed homework/assignments.
- ★ Get your supplies, put phone away, and begin warm-up assignment(s) as soon as the bell rings (EVERY day).
- ★ **Earbuds, airpods, headphones etc. are not permitted per county policy.**
- ★ Use technology only when assigned (laptop). If I am instructing, pay attention!
- ★ ONLY ask to use the bathroom during the allowed times posted on the board. * Five passes*
- ★ Respect Ms. Rosen's, the rules, and one another.

Course Goals:

- Read great literature with understanding and enjoyment
- Employ strategies to read nonfiction more efficiently
- Read critically and analytically, asking pertinent questions about what is read, recognizing assumptions and implications, and evaluating ideas
- Respond directly and efficiently to questions that require a timed essay, organizing quickly and clearly, and developing each major point fully
- Use the conventions of standard written English with skill and confidence
- Collect data from primary and secondary sources, used judiciously and documented accurately
- Present original projects to class with confidence

Units of Study

Over the course of the semester, we will cover six units. Units will last about two or three weeks each:

1. Foundations and Encounters (Early American Lit)
2. Building a Democracy (Revolutionary Period)
3. The Individual and Society (American Renaissance)
4. The Quest for Freedom (The Civil War and Its Aftermath)
5. America Transformed (An Age of Realism)
6. Contemporary Voices and Visions (Modern & Contemporary)

Each unit will include:

- Selected readings from the textbook (available online OR in the physical textbook).
- Study questions and short writing assignments to guide your understanding of each unit.
- A project, referred to as a “performance task.”
- A traditional test with multiple choice and short answer questions.
- Final essays per each unit (Narrative, Informational, Argumentative)

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Supplies Needed:

- ☐ Binder, Notebook paper
- ☐ Blue, Black, Red ink pens, Pencils, Highlighters
- ☐ Post-it notes, Index cards

- ☐ **Books: I have a class set, but if you would like your student to have their own copy.**

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald

Grading:

Formative Assessments/Practice

(smaller, quicker assignments) 40%

Major Assignments / Assessments (tests, quizzes, projects, essays, and other major work: etc): 40%

EOCT (Final Exam) 20%

Make Up Work:

- Any graded work that you miss goes in the gradebook as “M,” which calculates as a zero, until you make it up and I grade it. This includes daily, formative, and major assignments.
- Homework assignments will not be accepted late, as they will be reviewed in class when due.
- When you miss a day, it is your responsibility to make up the assignment without waiting for any prompting from the teacher.
- If you miss a quiz or a test, you need to assign a makeup day. When many students miss a test or quiz on the same day it will take quite a while to get all of the makeups done. That means you will have a zero showing in the gradebook for an extended period of time. It’s easier not to miss quizzes or tests the first time they are given.
- Makeup assessments will not necessarily be the same assessment given the first time. That means that if you miss a test, the makeup that you take might be a different test covering the same material as the original test.

Attendance:

You are required to attend every day. Students who struggle are typically students who have poor attendance. You must be in class to learn the material. A parent will be contacted for excessive absences.

Students are responsible for everything we cover in class. Grades are based on everything we cover in class, not just what you are present for. Being absent does not excuse a student from any assignment.

Importance of Classwork:

There is no such thing as “busywork” in this class. I will expect your writing assignments and classroom discussions to reflect the knowledge you are supposed to gain from our classwork. Your work must show me that you are gaining knowledge as we progress through the semester and incorporating it into your writing.

For example, if we cover the introduction of a unit on a Monday, a reading selection on Tuesday, and a writing assignment on Wednesday, I will expect your writing to reflect the material you read on both Monday and Tuesday. This shows me that you’re learning how everything fits together in our work.

Finally, a Word About Academic Honesty

The worst mistake you can make in this class is to cheat or to misrepresent someone else’s work as your own.

- Many students mistakenly believe that paraphrasing someone else's work is not cheating. It is.
- Many students mistakenly believe that changing a few words in someone else’s sentence and submitting it as their own work is not cheating. It is.

Students caught doing any kind of cheating will receive zeroes for the work **that cannot be made up later**. If you pay attention in class and submit your best work, you won’t need to cheat.

Also, with the advancement of AI technology, students believe it is fine to use an AI generator (like ChatGPT) for essays. Using sources like this will result in an automatic zero and falls under the cheating parameters. The same can be said for online resources (like Quizlet) that have answers to similar/same questions we have in class.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

I have received and read Ms. Rosen's syllabus for American Literature. I understand and agree to abide by all classroom policies and procedures.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read Ms. Rosen's syllabus for American Literature. I understand the importance of encouraging my son or daughter to follow all classroom policies and procedures to ensure success in the course.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with and get to know your child over the course of the term; however, I understand that nobody knows your child as well as you. Please use the space below (and/or back) to tell me anything about your child that you feel would be important for me to know. Also, please read the syllabus and sign the form above. Please return this paper to me.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate with me about your child. Please email me at arosen@henry.12.ga.us if you have any questions or concerns. I check my email frequently throughout the day, so that is the fastest way to reach me. I am looking forward to a great year with your child!

Sincerely,

Angela Rosen

Parent Information

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Parent Comments: