

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it" - Charles R. Swindoll

Course Description

In this course students will study American Literature with a sequential development of composition skills. The course covers poetry, the short story, the essay, the research paper, and novels. The material ranges from the Puritan Period through the beginnings of Realism and Naturalism and the Modern Period. Students will be introduced to contemporary literature, which reflects the current attitudes, mores, and philosophies relevant to society today. A composition strand will generate fully documented themes, which require research for completion. Units covered within the course, in no particular order include: The American Legacy, American Relationships, The American Dream, The Great American Novel, America in Darkness, American Society, American Life Lessons, and Universal Lessons.

Curriculum Expectations

A variety of student assessments will be used throughout the course. Evaluations will consist of tests/quizzes, reading comprehension quizzes, oral readings and interpretations, numerous written submissions (analytical and creative), classwork, homework, projects, and participation. Tests will be announced in class and on the Weekly Canvas Playlists prior to the expected test date. The English Department tests will occur on Mondays or Thursdays of the school week. Every effort should be given to make up these items during a study hall, lunch study, after school, or lunch. Should you choose to take these items during class, activities will continue, and you will still be responsible for the current day's work.

- **Grading Policy** - All grades will be based on total points accumulated from the above requirements and on the school district's grading scale for a yearlong course as described in the EFHS Program of Studies.
- **Formal Writing Rules** - When turning in any documentation it will be the class rule to eliminate all contractions in your writing AND to eliminate all use of the pronoun "YOU" as well as colloquialism and slang expressions that convey an informal tone. Points will be deducted when used so please make sure to proofread/edit prior to turning in any documentation. Writing assignments should also be completed in MLA style format unless stated otherwise.
- **Late Work** - All work must be completed on time for full credit. Work totaling 30 points or less will be accepted late for half credit for a period of seven days. Large scale work (essays, projects, etc. over 30 points) will be docked 10% of the total points for each day late until you reach 50%. After seven calendar days have expired, a zero will permanently be awarded and the assignment will be closed in Canvas. No additional days outside of class will be given if absent for essay, project, etc. work when time is given to do so in class. Budget accordingly and make prior arrangements with me if missing class due to Steel Center or other commitments. This bullet will be strictly abided by!
- **Makeup Lecture/Work** - Making up missed work and obtaining any notes from lecture is your responsibility. If you are absent, you need to check the Weekly Canvas Playlists. I will not track you down for missing work. District policy will be followed relating to allowed time for excused absences. If you come to school late, leave early, or attend field trips, sporting events, and other school-related absences, you are in the building and are expected to deliver any work due that day to me that day by placing it in the white basket in the front of the room or through electronic means. Please ask for work in advance, when possible, for known absences.
- **Zeros in the Gradebook** - Be aware that when work is not completed on time, a zero will be put in the gradebook regardless of the reason. This is so you are aware that the work is missing. If you were absent that day and the absence is excused, you will be given full credit for the work once you turn it in. If the work is simply late (not due to an excused absence), please see Late Work and Makeup Work above.
- **Research Paper** - Students will choose a novel from an approved list of novels by American writers to read independently. They will then have a test on the content and plot of the work, they will research themes from multiple sources that are included in the work, and they will undergo the process of creating a multi-page research paper and works cited relating to the work and other researched sources. Details will be given to this extensive project as we conclude the second nine weeks. The project will be completed during the third nine weeks and the grade for the paper will be included in the fourth nine weeks. Both the research component and the actual paper have significant point values.

Classroom Behavior

In order to make this class enjoyable for us all, I will need your cooperation and participation in class discussions. Attending class on a daily basis surely will help promote a positive environment and is a necessity toward concluding your senior year. I welcome your opinions on the interpretation of our readings and believe your views are important and worth hearing. Please do make sure to censor your comments and dialogue for both school appropriateness and constructive criticism. Participation will be heavily valued and count toward a portion of your grade. Please note the new rules regarding electronic devices (PED's) in the Student Handbook. **Remember: You must READ the literary selections in order to have an understanding of the lecture and discussion. In almost every aspect of life, whether it is a newspaper, a magazine, or an Internet website, you will need to read. Knowing how to decipher what is important and pull out the necessary information will be crucial to being successful in the choices you make throughout your life. ☺**

- **Be on Time** - Being late occasionally is understandable, but regular tardiness will result in a detention or an office referral (specifically, after three times tardy). Being in the bathroom before class or dropping off materials, then using the bathroom without a pass is not an excuse for being tardy. If a school concern is going to take long enough to make you late, come get permission and a pass from me first.
- **Maintain Personal Space** - Do not touch another student's body, belongings, desk, or invade his or her personal space without that student's clear permission.
- **Hall Travel** - You will not be permitted to go to any location during class, except the restroom and only when it is an emergency. To be dismissed to the restroom, use the "Pass" app on your iPad (no iPad; no restroom), but only during class time when there are no speeches or lectures occurring. Only one person is allowed out of the room at a time.
- **Use Appropriate Language and Tone** - Even if you swear, yell, and insult other people on your own time, that kind of behavior is not tolerated here.
- **Food and Drink Policy** - Food/drinks are permitted **ONLY** if they are not distracting (too noisy, smelly, etc.), they are not being shared or passed around the room, you do not make a mess, and they do not contain allergens. If any of these rules are violated, the entire class will be banned from having food and drinks.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

Behaviors that interfere with the learning of other students will not be tolerated. If you are doing something that is negatively interfering with the classroom environment or the learning of another student, I will follow the district's discipline guidelines.

In addition, please respect the following **BRAVE standards of behavior**:

Be safe: Listen to staff and maintain personal space.

Respect others: Be on time, be polite, and use appropriate language and tone.

Be Accountable: Be prepared, be honest, do your own work, use electronic devices only when permitted.

Be Victorious: Do your best work and celebrate academic success.

Be Enthusiastic: Have a positive attitude and take ownership of learning.

It is absolutely unacceptable to copy material from another student or from another source (i. e. Internet sites). Copying another student's work or taking it from the Internet counts as plagiarism, no matter the material. You are not permitted to 'work together' unless I have given you specific permission to do so. If you plagiarize or cheat in any way, you and any other student(s) involved will receive a zero, and there will be no opportunity to make up the work. Please see the current edition of the Student Handbook for more information in the Academic Integrity section, specifically in relationship to AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools. Please also keep in mind the following rules regarding our **departmental academic integrity**:

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| * Accurately cite all sources | * Proofread your work to assure accuracy |
| * Accurately represent your sources | * Include a list of works cited for all compositions |
| * Read all assigned readings to assure accuracy | * Do not download a composition from the Internet |
| * Do not copy another person's work | * Do not make up quotes that are not in the text you have read |
| * Do not give your work to others | * Do not write a paper for one course and turn in the same paper for another course |

Required Materials

It is a sign of maturity to be prepared for class. The following items are required daily: iPad (so make sure it is charged), pen and/or pencil, and a two-pocket folder, and assigned novel or textbook (depending on unit being covered). The Canvas LMS will have a Weekly Canvas Playlist that is the student's responsibility to read daily as well as any inbox emails or announcements.

Instructor's Message

Students, Mrs. Leuenberger and I welcome opportunities to help you throughout the course and encourage you to make appointments if you are experiencing difficulty at any time. Please feel free to email Mrs. Kluegel through the Canvas inbox if needed.

**Any portion of this syllabus is subject to change by the teacher based on the needs of the course and class. Rev. 8/21/24