

American Literature
2021-2022

Teacher: Miss Whidden

Classroom: Rm. 415

Text: Required: Glencoe American Literature

Contact: **Call or text before 9 pm 509-386-2011**

This Class: This class is designed as a survey of American literature, to be studied in chronological order. In this class you will:

- become familiar with all periods of American literature from the Colonial period to the Postmodern era.
- learn to read and respond critically to works from each genre of American literature including, poetry, short story, nonfiction and the novel.
- learn how American history helped develop and influence American literature.
- integrate art and music into your study of American literature.
- develop creative and research projects utilizing your expertise in the area of American literature.

Attendance and Participation:

There is no chance of success, as a class or as individuals, if students choose to not take attendance and class participation seriously. The studies of literature and writing are activities which require strict attention, second, third and fourth opinions (writing), and opinions from everyone (literature). If you are not in class, or if you arrive late, you will miss vital opportunities to share your opinion and hear others. Bottom line: **Your presence is necessary!**

Here's what happens if you fail to make attendance and punctuality a priority: you lose the two points you may earn each day just for showing up. If you are late, you lose one of those points. Excused tardies and absences are, of course, the exception to this rule. In addition to lost points, there is the added headache of finding out what you missed – information for which **you will be held responsible** – and making up the work.

Please be aware that you are expected to be seated quietly, in uniform, with your phone stowed at the time of the bell to start class. Failure to comply with this request will result in a ½ for the day's participation points.

Note: a tardy becomes an absence after 15 minutes.

Projects: Throughout the course of the year, you will work on developing a number of creative projects, some individual, some as part of a group. NOTE: Some of these projects will be in conjunction with history and/or Bible, and will receive credit in both/all classes. Examples of possible projects include the following:

- Colonial life research project
- Salem Witch Trials research
- Poetry Illustrations
- Timeline
- Creative Writing Projects

Memorization: Periodically, you will be assigned a piece of literature to memorize for in-class recitation. Expect both poetry and speeches to be assigned. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Various poetry selections from each period of American history/literature
- The Gettysburg Address
- Chief Joseph's "I will fight no more forever" speech

Grades:

- 90 – 100% - A
- 80 – 89% - B
- 70 – 79% - C
- 60 – 69% - D
- Below 60% - F

In-Class Expectations: There are some things that you should know about how class works. First, in terms of classroom behavior there is but one word you need to keep in mind: **RESPECT**. If we can agree on a working definition of respect, what it means in our class, there should be no need for me to correct you. If you need to be reminded, I'm happy to do that. I have a few ideas about respect, regarding dress code, hand-raising, and a few other, deeper issues. We will talk as a class and add to these if needed.

Notes: In this class, you will be taking copious notes. I am not exaggerating with that word. As this is an important aspect of class, please follow these guidelines for your notetaking:

- a) Notes are to be kept organized in one place. Please have a dedicated composition book for these.
- b) **ALL NOTES ARE TO BE HANDWRITTEN.** This policy is based on research and is an effort to minimize cheating. (see article posted on Classroom)

- c) These notes are to be used for quiz-taking. I will check that you have hand-written notes prepared before you will be allowed to take any quiz.
- d) Some days the notes will be written on the board by me for you to copy. Some days you will be taking notes from the textbook.
- e) If you are absent, please contact a classmate about getting the notes you missed for that day.
- f) Your notes will be used on the semester final, and then turned in for credit.

**Cell Phones and Other
Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices, such as but not limited to computers, MP3 players, iPods, CD/DVD players, electronic games, laser pointers, or cell phones are not to be used while classes are in session unless given specific permission by a teacher in the classroom. Such items, if used inappropriately and taken by a teacher, will be brought to the office for safe-keeping. An administrator will return the item at an appropriate time, depending on circumstances and number of infractions.

The Final Word:

Please, please, please ask questions if you are uncertain about something. This means asking in class, or if you're too shy, staying after class to ask privately or catching me when others are working on something else. It's terribly important to stay on top of things, which is difficult to do if the fog thickens. I promise not to bite your head off, at least not the first time, if you ask me a question.