

American Literature

Mrs. Rau

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Course Description:

Over the course of this class, students will discuss many topics related to the analysis and application of English Language Arts through the lens of American history. We will use a collection of texts from our past to make relevant connections to our present, exploring the overarching themes of identity, coming-of-age struggles, and individuality. Students will read a variety of genres including short stories, drama, poetry and novels with a critical study of the genre's key elements. The curriculum includes historical and contemporary works, and knowledge of literary texts is assessed through written compositions, projects and presentations.

Learning Goals:

By the end of the course, students will be able to . . .

- Identify philosophical assumptions and belief systems in literature texts
- Develop, explain and defend literary interpretations and perspectives by making inferences and generalizations
- Examine various genres of American Literature and demonstrate understanding of literary elements within each
- Consider the influence of context and historical, social, and cultural issues when analyzing literature
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
- Write routinely over various time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences
- Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively

Expectations:

- Read and/or complete assigned work before coming to class
- Be prepared to discuss the assigned material. I expect you to not only answer questions about the material, but to have a point of view and raise questions as well.
- Listen to, analyze, and respect ideas from other students.
- Be willing to help others and to be helped.

Major Texts to be Studied:

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie (young adult novel)

The Crucible by Arthur Miller (play)

Gothic Literature (Poe, King)

Of Mice and Men (novella)

The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger (novel)

Due Dates and Absences:

Students will lose one letter grade each day that an assignment is late. Of course, there are sometimes serious extenuating circumstances, and that can be taken into consideration on an individual basis. It is your responsibility to come and talk with me about this promptly. If you miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to follow up on missed classwork, tests and assignments.

Attendance/Participation:

Discussion is an important element of this class, and your participation is needed. By sharing our various reflections and insights we all gain a broader understanding. Because of this, regular attendances is critical to be successful.

Grading Scale:

A+ = 99-100%	B+ = 91-92%	C+ = 84-85%	D+ = 76-77%
A = 95-98%	B = 88-90%	C = 80-83%	D = 72-75%
A - = 93-94%	B- = 86-87	C- = 78-79%	D- = 70-71%

Supplies Needed:

- 1 box of kleenix
- Folder
- Notebook
- Pens, pencils and highlighters
- Computer, charger if needed, and a mouse if preferred
- Electronic storage device (flash drive)