

## **Syllabus English 130 American Literature**

**Instructor- Mrs. Hotz**

[shotz@huron-city.k12.oh.us](mailto:shotz@huron-city.k12.oh.us)

### **Required Course Texts and Materials:**

Text book- *Elements of Literature; Essentials of American Literature Fifth Course*

*A Pocket Style Manual Fifth Edition* Diana Hacker

*Vocabulary Power Plus for the New SAT: Vocabulary, Reading, and Writing Exercises for High Scores*

*Novels Provided by HHS:*

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*Othello* by William Shakespeare

*Students must purchase:*

3-ring binder

5 tab divider inserts

Single subject notebook

Writing utensils

Lined paper

### **Course Description**

This course will survey selected American authors representing the major periods, schools, and traditions in American literary history. Our texts will span the pre-colonial eras (before European colonization in the 1600s) to our contemporary era; include multiple genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama); and be race- and gender-inclusive. Some attention will also be paid to the historical/cultural contexts of the literary periods. SAT and ACT preparation will be emphasized as well through practice tests and vocabulary practice.

### **Class Participation**

A successful class depends on your participation, your observations and questions, and your willingness to explore new ideas in relation to the assigned readings. Therefore, it is crucial that you keep up with the reading assignments in order to respond and react to what you have read.

### **Due Date Policy**

Assignments are due the day they are due! A late paper is defined as: "something turned in after the due date"; this can be days, or minutes. When I ask for it you need to have it done. If you turn something in late 50% will be taken off. This means if you turn in every assignment late, you will fail. **YOU NEED TO DO YOUR WORK ON TIME!!** When we finish a unit the door will be closed on make-up work and you will see, in Progress Book, your grade go from missing to a zero. When we move on to a new story or topic, you will no longer be able to turn in late work from the previous story or topic and once it turns into a zero in Progress Book it stays a zero. **IT IS YOUR JOB TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE TO MAKE-UP.**

### **The Unpleasant Stuff...**

This is the section that may begin to sound like rules (which, who are we kidding, they are)...

From you, I expect:

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared.

- You must have a writing utensil, paper, your class binder (we will get to this in a minute) and any supplementary materials (such as a novel we are reading, a hand out, homework due, project due...) with you everyday.
3. Work in class.
    - Participation will be a major part of your grade. You need to be awake and your brain needs to be functioning during class!
    - If you chose not to work in class you may end up being removed which will result in a 10 point deduction from your overall grade.
  4. Be positive.
    - “I can’t...”; “I’m not good at...” (Etc) are comments that are not allowed. Be positive that you are capable and you will be.
    - The only consequence here is your own confidence and that would just be a shame.
    - However, if you are being negative about a subject we are studying in class be prepared to defend your opinion in an intelligent manner, if you cannot you will not be taken seriously and it will be determined that you have broken this rule resulting in a 5 point deduction from your overall grade. (BTW- “Because it’s boring” will guarantee that you lose 5 points)
  5. Respect
    - This is a word that is thrown around a lot. Most of you know when someone is “disrespecting” you, so keep in mind how much you don’t like it when you are disrespected and don’t do it to others!
    - If you chose not to respect you may end up with one of the following consequences:
      1. Push-ups, wall sits, star jumps...these are all possibilities depending on the severity of the disrespect.
      2. A writing, speaking, research or some other type of extra assignment.
      3. In horrible cases you will be removed from class, given a zero for the day’s work, and 10 points will be subtracted from your overall score for the removal.

**Other important information:**

**Assignments**

This class includes a variety of assessments including essays, projects, tests, quizzes, handouts, notes for discussion, and homework.

**Grades**

Your grades will be calculated based on a point system. Tests, quizzes, and projects will be worth more points than class work assignments and homework. Do well on big grades, but don’t forget the little ones! Class work, vocabulary, handouts, they all add up! You are free to view your grade at any time on Progress Book or you can ask me and when it is convenient for me I will show you your grade.

**Absence Policy:**

Excused Absence- You must come to me before or after school to collect your missing assignments. I will not chase you down and make sure you have made up the work; it is your responsibility to get the work and finish it. School policy states that you have the same amount of time to make up assignments as the time you have missed. So, for example, you miss one day, you get one day to make up work. After your allotted grace period, work will be considered late and 50% of the score will be taken.

If you have missed a test or quiz that was pre-announced on a day that you did attend class, you are still responsible to take that test or quiz on the day you return to class. You are also responsible for assignments that have a pre-announced due date; you are responsible for turning them in on the day you return. If you miss a test or quiz, and need to make up that test or quiz you can either before or after school.

Excused Absence for a School Related Function- If you are missing class for a school related activity you must turn in anything that was due that day before you leave. You can hand it to me, put it in my mail box, or slide the assignment under my door. If you are missing a test or quiz you must make up the test or quiz either before or after school.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The Academic Dishonesty Policy is strictly adhered to in the class room. This includes but is not limited to-

- Impersonating someone on an exam.
- Copying from another student, with or without that student's knowledge. This includes homework, worksheets, tests, projects, etc.
- Using direct quotations or large sections of paraphrased material without giving credit to the source.
- Preparing an assignment for submission by another student.
- Buying or selling assignments.
- Computer assisted plagiarism (cut and paste, e-mailed answers, internet resources not properly cited...)

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

#### First Offense

1. Offender will be given a 0 (F) on the work being done.
2. Parents will be called.
3. Counselors and assistant principal will be notified and copies of work will be given to them.
4. Offender will receive two detentions

#### Second Offense

1. Offender will be given a 0 (F) for the grading period.
2. Parents will be called.
3. Counselors and assistant principal will be notified and copies of work will be given to them.
4. Offender will receive two detentions.

#### Third Offense

1. Offender will be removed from the class and given an F for the course.
2. Parents will be called.
3. Counselors and assistant principals will be notified and copies of work will be given to them.
4. Offender will receive two detentions.

### **Rough Course Outline**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Semester:**

The Colonial Era  
The Revolutionary Period  
Romanticism/Trancendentalism

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:**

The Rise of Realism  
The Modern Age  
The Harlem Renaissance

\*This outline is subject to change at the teacher's discretion.

**Areas addressed in this course include the following:**

- Nonfiction: various works
- Short Stories: various works
- Drama: *The Crucible*, *Othello*
- Novels: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*
- Poetry: various authors
- Independent novel analysis
- Personal narrative informal essay
- Research
- Compare and contrast essays
- Literary analysis essay
- Persuasive essay

### **General Objectives**

#### *Knowledge-*

1. Become familiar with selected major and minor writers of each period.
2. Become familiar with the literary work or works of each author.
3. Become acquainted with such literary forms as narrative and lyric poetry, short stories, and essays.
4. Become familiar with literary devices or reinforce the knowledge of these devices, such as figures of speech, meter, symbolism, allusion, foreshadowing, stream of consciousness, and flashback.
5. Become acquainted with significant ideas of each period in order to determine the reason for and author's position on a given subject.
6. Become familiar with important social condition of each period in order to understand the authors.
7. Be aware of the geographical, economic, and social influences of the development of American Literature.
8. Be aware of significant themes in American Literature.

#### *Skills-*

1. Be able to show how contemporary literary forms have evolved from past forms.
2. Be able to evaluate the quality of literary works by comparing them to the recognized best in that genre.
3. Be able to show the relationship between an author's life and the philosophy of the time in which he/she lived and his/her literary works.
4. Given the knowledge that literature is inseparably linked to history and is generated from a specific historical period, the student should be able to discern historical events and influences as depicted, explicitly or implicitly, in literature.
5. Given this knowledge of the historical perspective of American Literature, the student should be able to analyze, interpret, and perhaps better understand the problems of the contemporary American scene.
6. Be able to write acceptable critical analysis of a novel from the standpoint of style, content, and mechanics.

#### *Essential Questions*

1. How is the history of America reflected in the literature?
2. How does the literature reflect American idealism?
3. How is the style of American literature unique in form?
4. What are the responsibilities of effective writers?
5. What are the traits of strong academic writing?

I am looking forward to the school year and can't wait to begin our journey together. Here's to a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hotz  
ENG III 136  
Hotz

## **Your First Assignment**

Lucky you! Your first assignment is a very easy one! You need to acquire a 3 ring binder (I suggest larger than one inch in size), 5 dividers, labels for the dividers, paper, a single subject notebook, and writing utensils. This will all be worth 20 points and is due Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Your binder will be organized in the following way:

**Section 1:** Label this section “Vocabulary.” Here you will keep anything pertaining to vocabulary lessons.

**Section 2:** Label this section “Notes.” Here you will keep any notes you take in class or any I pass out for you to study.

**Section 3:** Label this section “Grammar.” Here you will keep your grammar units.

**Section 4:** Label this section “Writing.” Here you will keep all things writing.

**Section 5:** Label this section “Literature.” Here you will keep all things reading.

The reason for keeping this binder during the school year is simple. Studies have shown that students who have a system by which they organize are more successful. Therefore, this system will help you to be organized and be more successful in class.

You will always file everything away by putting the most recent papers on top in the proper section of your binder. There will be a binder check once in a while and I will let you know when you can purge your documents.