

CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE EXPECTATIONS
AMERICAN LITERATURE

Mrs. Thompson

1. Course Description

This one-year course is a survey of American literature from the beginning of the United States to the present. This class will trace historical, political, and cultural development of America as reflected in literature. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical judgment and effective writing skills. This course will fulfill one of the English credits required for high school graduation.

2. Course Objectives

- a. To develop a broad knowledge of the American literary heritage.
- b. To recognize the origins and development of American literature as a product of the political, social, and religious environment of the American people.
- c. To recognize specific contributions of American culture and history to literature.
- d. To understand forms and types of American poetry.
- e. To recognize writing styles in fiction and nonfiction.
- f. To expand vocabulary through literature.
- g. To develop techniques of literary critique and evaluation.
- h. To reinforce the steps in the writing process.
- i. To expand reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
- j. To write objectively and subjectively, using reader's own experience, in response to selected literature.
- k. To strengthen higher-level thinking skills through student writing and discussion of literature.
- l. To respond with tolerance and respect to the ideas and writing of others.
- m. To develop an understanding of good character and ethics by responding to a wide variety of written and oral communication.

3. Course Materials

- Textbooks: Grammar/Composition - *Language Network* (McDougal Littell)
 Literature – *The Language of Literature – American Literature* (McDougal Littell)
- Novels: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
 The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

4. *Course Outline

First Quarter

- 1) The Writing Process / Descriptive Writing
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Discussion Skills
- 4) Note taking
- 5) Literature
 - a) Unit One - The New Land To 1750 (including *The Crucible*)
 - b) Unit Two - The Revolutionary Period 1750-1800
 - c) Unit Three – A Growing Nation 1800-1840

Second Quarter

- 1) Imitative Writing
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Oral Presentation Skills

- 4) Literature
 - a) Unit Four – New England Renaissance 1840-1855
 - b) Unit Five - Division, War and Reconciliation 1855-1865
 - c) Unit Six - Realism and the Frontier 1865-1915 (including *Of Mice and Men*)

Third Quarter

- 1) Persuasive Writing
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Discussion Skills
- 4) Literature
 - a) Unit Seven - The Modern Age 1915-1945 (including *The Great Gatsby*)

Fourth Quarter

1. Writing from Research
2. Expository Writing
3. Vocabulary
4. Oral Presentation Skills
5. Researching
6. Literature
 - a) Unit Eight - Contemporary Writers 1946-Present

**This quarterly breakdown of the course outline is approximate and may vary.*

Vocabulary activities, learning strategies, test-taking skill development, writing paragraphs, and writing essays are ongoing throughout the entire school year. Outside reading is also required.

5. Evaluation

- A. All assignments are due on the assigned date and **at the beginning of class**. If you are absent on a homework due date any previously assigned daily homework assignment must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day you return.

B. Major Assignments

1. A project or major assignment is defined as any assignment whose total point value approaches 10% of a single quarter grade.
2. “Hard due dates” for major assignments will always be given in advance. Students will have the opportunity to turn the assignment in early to accommodate any prearranged absence or activity.
3. Any major assignment that is not turned in at the beginning of the class period it is due will be considered late. If the assignment reaches the teacher’s classroom or mailbox before the end of that school day a 10% reduction in point value will be applied.

****If the assignment is turned in one day late 25%** of the total possible points will be deducted.

****If the assignment is turned in two days late 50%** of the total possible points will be deducted.

****If the assignment is turned in three days late 75%** of the total possible points will be deducted.

****Assignments will not be accepted after the fourth late day.** The student will receive a zero for that assignment.

****Students should utilize all means available to turn in projects on time, including delivery by friends or relatives.** Assignments can always be turned in to the office receptionist to be placed in my mailbox.

4. This graduated grading policy applies to both excused and unexcused absences and does not apply to daily homework assignments or to assignments that are completed in the classroom.
5. **Partial Day Absences and Due Dates** – Students are often absent for part of the school day due to medical/dental appointments, field trips, or other school-approved activities. In all such cases, students are required to hand in previously assigned work that is due on that date. It may be dropped off in my classroom or handed in to the office receptionist to be placed in my mailbox.

C. Grading will be based on the following system:

Participation / Citizenship 10%

This portion of the grade includes classroom behavior, being prepared and on time for class, as well as participating in all classroom activities and staying on task. In addition, preparation and participation in independent reading will be incorporated into the participation grade. Major classroom disruption will result in the loss of participation points for that day. Students who choose to sleep during class will also lose participation points for that day. A participation grade will be earned each class period.

Cheating, copying homework, or plagiarizing will result in an automatic “U” in the student’s quarterly citizenship grade. Inappropriate classroom behavior or disruption of class will result in the reduction of the citizenship grade. Excessive tardies may also result in the reduction of the citizenship grade.

Tests and Quizzes 30%

Includes weekly vocabulary and both announced and unannounced reading quizzes. Vocabulary words will include contextual words directly from the literature, Anglo Saxon roots, and literary terms. Major unit exams will be more heavily weighted in this category. A variety of objective testing strategies will be used.

Assignments 30%

Typical assignments may include three column notes for vocabulary, response and comprehension questions, sentence practice, and completion of an assignment started in class.

Essays/Projects 30%

A variety of writing and projects will be assigned throughout the year. **All graded compositions will be submitted with a rough draft, or they will not be accepted.**

D. Grades will be earned based on the following scale:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 89.5 – 100 = | A |
| 79.5 – 89.4 = | B |
| 69.5 – 79.4 = | C |
| 59.5 – 69.4 = | D |
| 0 – 59.4 = | F |

E. Your semester grade will be determined by the following method:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| First quarter grade | 40% |
| Second quarter grade | 40% |
| Semester exam | 20% |

F. Make Up Work

1. Make up work is available to students upon their return. Students must check the class assignment calendar, posted in the classroom, to determine missed work. If further explanation is needed, students must either see me before or after school. Do not discuss make up work once class has begun and the day's activity is under way. When a student is absent from class, he or she has three days from the day of his or her return to submit any make up assignments. After this time period has passed the student will receive a zero for the missed assignment. If there are extenuating circumstances students should see me for any additional arrangements. Any notes the student has missed can be copied from the Sample Notebook, which is always available to students. Students should come in before or after school or make arrangements with me to copy any missing notes. Obtaining discussion notes from a classmate may also be beneficial.
2. **Major Quiz/Test Make Up Policy** - Students who are absent (excused or unexcused) on the day of a previously announced major quiz or test must be prepared to take the missed test or quiz immediately upon return from the absence. Absent students should not expect any grace period due to the absence. In order to ensure fairness to all students, no additional study time should be expected for students who are absent on major test days. To arrange to make up a major test or quiz a student must see me IMMEDIATELY upon his or her return to school to make the appropriate arrangements. A student will be given a maximum of three days to make up major tests and quizzes. If a student chooses not to make up the test or quiz in an appropriate and timely manner, he or she will receive a zero on the test or quiz. Previously scheduled presentations cannot be made up barring debilitating illness or family tragedy as deemed legitimate by the instructor.

6. Spelling and Grammar

The care you take in your writing will be noticed. If you choose to overlook the fundamentals of what you know to be good writing in your work, your grade will be affected. Never take good writing for granted as spelling and grammar will be an important consideration in all work.

7. Classroom Expectations

- a. Adhere to all Coronado High School and Clark County School District rules at all times.

- b. You must sign the tardy sign-in sheet as soon as you enter the classroom. If you have a pass, leave it in the basket by the sign-in book or show me your Cougar planner with the pass section signed. Absences and tardies will be dealt with according to Coronado High School's attendance and tardy policies. Tardies will result in a warning, detention, parent contact, and an RPC.
- c. Class activities begin when the tardy bell rings. You need to be in your seat, have your materials out (novel, planner and pen or pencil) and be ready to begin at that time. Likewise, class does not end until I have dismissed you. Do not pack up before I have given you the okay.
- d. Passes will be given upon need and must be written in the planner unless extenuating circumstances occur.
- e. Do not have any electronic devices out in class. This includes cell phones, ipods, and similar electronic devices.
- f. Be respectful to all students and staff - always.
- g. Be prepared. Have all required materials (see list) with you on a daily basis.
- h. No gum, food, or beverages are permitted in class.
- i. Clean up after yourself. We share this space; keep it clean.
- j. Plagiarism – Plagiarism, the use of another's ideas or words without properly crediting you source is unethical, academically dishonest, and illegal. At many colleges, plagiarism can result in a student being expelled from school. Be certain you know what constitutes plagiarism. It will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic (0) zero on the applicable assignment and a "U" in Citizenship for the quarter. While the advent of the Internet has made plagiarism easier for students to perpetrate, it has also made it easier for teachers to catch. All outside writing assignments at Coronado High School will be submitted via Turnitin.com, a software program which checks for plagiarism.

In addition to a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism, I would like to make it clear that the following policies will prevail in our class:

***Students are expected to do their own work. Any evidence of copied work or cheating in any way will result in a (0) zero on that assignment, test, or quiz for all parties involved and an Unsatisfactory Citizenship grade for that quarter.**

***It is impossible for a teacher to know the subject of a conversation which occurs during a quiz or test; therefore, any talking which occurs during a quiz or a test, whether related to the subject matter or not, will result in a grade of (0) zero for all parties involved.**

*Disregarding any of my rules, Coronado High School's rules, or the rules of the Clark County School District will result in the following:
 Verbal warning/Student conference
 Parent contact/Detention
 Parent-Teacher conference
 Dean referral

8. Class Assignments/Homework

- a. Plagiarism or copying of any kind on an assignment is unacceptable and will receive zero credit. This includes copying homework from another student, cheating on a class assignment or copying information from the internet. All work must be the work of the student unless otherwise stipulated.
- b. All assignments must be completed in dark blue or black ink and neatly written or typed.
- c. Properly label all work in the upper right hand corner of you paper:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| First and Last Name | Example: | Tom Jones |
| Date | | 8/25/08 |
| Period | | Period 4 |
| Assignment Name | | Vocabulary 5 |

9. Required Materials

- a. 3-ring binder divided in 5 sections (see below)
- b. Dark blue or black pens (2)
- c. Red pen or pencil
- d. #2 pencil
- e. Cougar planner (**You must use Coronado's planner**)

10. Notebook Requirements

Your 3-ring binder **must** contain loose-leaf and 5 dividers labeled with the following:

- a. Course Expectations
- b. Vocabulary
- c. Assignments
- d. Notes
- e. Tests/Quizzes

Please print the final page of this handout (below) and return it to me signed by Wed., 8/27.

FILM PERMISSION SLIP AND SYLLABUS ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

Dear Parent (s) / Guardian (s):

Throughout the year, students enrolled in American Literature will be shown various films or film excerpts in class to reinforce or further identify concepts being studied. All of the films shown in class adhere to the CCSD limitations of the 6150 regulation; therefore, a parent / guardian permission slip is required for a PG rated film **regardless of the age of the student.**

Those students who do not return this permission slip by the prescribed due date will not be allowed to view the in-class films. These students will be given an alternative assignment with no penalty to their class grades. Students absent during a film showing will also be given a comparable make-up assignment.

Please sign below and return this page with your young adult.

_____ has my permission to participate in film viewing for American Literature. (Please print the student’s name.)

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Course Expectations Acceptance Statement

I have read and understand the expectations required of me in English Literature Honors as per this Course Expectations Syllabus. I am aware that to successfully complete this course of study, I need to attend class on a regular basis, actively participate in class or small group discussions, complete and turn in assignments, and conduct myself in a respectable and mature fashion while in class. I understand that help is available to me if requested in a reasonable time frame.

(Student Signature)

_____ (Printed Student Name) _____ (Date)

I have also reviewed this syllabus with my young adult, and we are aware of its contents.

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Date)