

Junior Honors English

Mrs. Lillian Amadei

Course Outline and Objectives

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Junior Honors English offers students an advanced course in American Literature from the Puritan Period to the Modern Period. Literature is analyzed and discussed with an emphasis on critical thinking and writing. Informal and formal essays will be integrated throughout the study of literature. Novels and drama are analyzed at least one novel/play will be required after each unit, as well as research papers on several of these works. At least two Shakespearean plays will be read also. Various other genres will be incorporated such as the short story, the essay, and poetry. History, art, and music for the different periods are also studied to provide a cross-curriculum approach. This course will afford students the opportunity to be well-organized, independent, and critical thinkers, as well as encouraging creativity.

TECHNOLOGY COMPETENCIES

1. Students will utilize computers to generate informal essays, formal essays, and research papers.
2. Students will utilize computers to do valid analyses of the literature.
3. Students will listen to music and explore artistic achievements of the various time periods studied in American literature.

COMPETENCIES

1. Students will develop college-level writing skills through formal and informal writing.
2. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of outstanding American authors.
3. Students will be able to identify style, techniques, and themes of American authors.
4. Students will be able to show a knowledge of contributions and influences, both in history and writing of famous American authors.
5. Student will define and implement vocabulary terms in conjunction with the literature.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the essay process by writing both informal and formal essays.
7. Students will read novels selected by the teacher and demonstrate reading comprehension and the ability to critically analyze the literature through discussion, written tests, and research papers.
8. Students will read plays representing facets of American literature, and demonstrate an understanding of the content both historically and artistically.
9. Students will read two Shakespearean plays and demonstrate reading comprehension and critical thinking skills through discussion, essays, written tests, and research papers.

The instructor will:

1. Insure that the instruction bears a meaningful relationship to the individual needs and interests of the students.
2. Encourage input, creativity, and all attempts to participate in a positive manner.
3. Create an atmosphere which fosters communication, excitement, and interest in coming to this class and participating.
4. Strive to make this course interesting, informative, valuable, creative, and reflective of the unique opportunity to encourage learning and serve as a role model.
5. Encourage and create communication with parents/caregivers so as to keep them involved and informed.

Students are required to have:

1. A binder or folder for returned quizzes, tests, handouts, etc.
2. A notebook for taking notes and doing homework.
3. Looseleaf paper.
4. Blue or black ink.

Expectations:

1. It is expected that homework be done on time. If the assignment is incomplete without a valid reason, the student must contact me before class. Because this is an honors class, students must be well-prepared for each day's discussion in order to achieve success in this class.
2. Students are afforded any opportunity to meet with the instructor. I will schedule meetings at any time to clarify lessons, answer questions, or assist with work. I encourage communication and will continually emphasize my availability for questions and assistance.
3. Assignments should be done in blue/black ink, on genuine looseleaf, or typed. Students should use a dictionary to avoid spelling errors. Work should reflect attention to grammar. Students should have assignments ready prior to entering the classroom. Everyone is expected to meet deadlines.
4. Students who are absent are expected to obtain assignments. If a student anticipates an absence (extracurricular activity, etc), he or she should obtain assignment before leaving.

5. Students are expected to be on time and have all materials required for class. Organization is stressed and is necessary for success in this class.
6. Any suspicion of cheating will result in BOTH (or whoever is suspected) parties receiving a zero for the assignment and referral to the office.

Classroom rules:

1. Respect is of the utmost importance. Students should respect themselves, classmates, the instructor, the school and its property. Talking in a negative or hurtful manner about any student or instructor is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
2. Students should not talk when the instructor or classmates are talking. It is counterproductive, distracting, and will not be tolerated.
3. Students should come to class ready to work. They should be prepared with a blue or black pen and a notebook (opened for note taking.) Students must also bring looseleaf paper to class each day. Work done in class on any other paper will not be accepted.
4. Students must follow all rules in the student handbook, which should be read and understood

Grading procedure:

Due to the nature of this course, there will be special activities integral to the course of study. Such activities will include seminar discussions, role playing, and emulation of authors' styles. All will be assessed accordingly. Students will be aware of their progress and offered the opportunity to earn any grade they want.

Calculation:

1. Participation, homework, classwork, and outside effort to enhance the class-10%
2. Quizzes - 20%
3. Creative writing, essays, poems -30%
4. Tests, papers, major essays, longer original pieces, and projects - 40%

General notes:

1. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced and may occur at any time during the period.
2. Tests will be announced well in advance, and a review will be given.
3. When absent, students must come to me for make-up work. Students may be required to stay after school.

Have a wonderful learning experience!

Mrs. Lillian Amadei