

American Literature Syllabus

2021-2022

Teacher

Ms. Vanessa

Email

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General Information

Description

Students will read and study various pieces of literature as well as enhance their writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Goals and Objectives

Goals:

- First and foremost—to enjoy and appreciate literature in various forms!
- Enhancing skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking
- Enhance comprehension skills
- Encouraging creativity and cultivating study skills

Objectives:

- Demonstrating achievement in reading, writing, listening, and speaking
- Completing assigned work thoroughly with maximum effort
- Achieving successful scores on projects, tests, essays, and presentations

Course Materials

Required Materials

- Three ring binder with a divider for English
- Paper, pencils, pens
- Art supplies: markers/colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks
- Silent reading book

Course Schedule

Quarter	Topic	Reading	Essay
Quarter 1	The elements of a short story and Edgar Allan Poe-biographical study and how that impacted his work	Several short stories and poems written by Edgar Allan Poe	Narrative Essay (Short Story)
Quarter 2	Holocaust. Morality vs. ethics, complicity, freedom vs. confinement	Night by Elie Wiesel	Expository Essay

Quarter	Topic	Reading	Essay
Quarter 3	Science-how far is too far? Tension between intellect and emotion, treatment of mentally disabled	Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes	Argumentative Essay
Quarter 4	Importance of individuality, dignity, insanity vs. sanity, power, conformity vs. freedom, the process and purpose of descriptive writing	One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey	Descriptive Essay

Grading

Class Discussion: 15%	Classwork: 15%	Quizzes and Homework: 15%	Tests/Projects: 30%
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Quarterly Essays:
25%

Activities throughout the year

Students will answer comprehension questions, take occasional quizzes and tests, participate in daily whole-group discussions, make movie posters, complete various art projects, make power points and present to the class, do their own research, learn to use graphic organizers, complete various smaller writing assignments (creative writing, mini essays, journal entries, opinion pieces, etc.)

I will add, remove, and/or alter assignments as needed for students

How I Help

- ▶ I use differentiation in all of my classes. I understand that one student's ability is different from another student's ability. I use audiobooks and read aloud to help students who need extra support with independent reading. I sit one-on-one with students who need it, give out additional worksheets/graphic organizers, and even alter assignments for students who need extra assistance or for students who need more of a challenge.
- ▶ Review and Reminders: I review concepts daily through whole group discussions. When a quiz or test is approaching, I have it written on my board a week out, I have them write it in their planner daily, and I review the concepts with them each day through whole class discussion and various activities.
- ▶ Breaking Down Essays: When it comes to essay writing, I give students several days in class to complete the assignment. We do whole class graphic organizers, and we review the prompts and ideas before they begin. Then, I chunk the essays so the students can focus on one area at a time to prevent them from feeling overwhelmed.

If students are showing up to class, engaging in whole class discussions, consistently saying on task, and completing their classwork, they will do great!