

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NAME: English 11

DEPARTMENT: English

COURSE NUMBER: 0331

GRADE LEVEL(S): 11

PHASE: Honors

YEAR X SEM QRTR

I. Course Description:

The primary goal of English 11 Honors is for each student to formulate a thorough and articulate answer to the central question "What is American about American Literature?" which will be the final examination question in June. To answer that question, students will read a number of works by major 19th and 20th century American writers, analyze those works with our essential question in mind, and as the course progresses, synthesize those studies so as to reach a conclusion.

II. Central Objectives:

To succeed in this course you will:

- A. Carefully read the assigned literature.
- B. Ask, in small and large group discussions, critical questions about the literature under study.
- C. Actively participate in classroom discussions, presentations, and other activities.
- D. Compose a number of thoughtful papers on the literature under study (these will be word-processed either at home or in school).
- E. Compose in-class essays on questions about the literature under study, paying particular attention to style, diction, tone, figurative language, and other literary techniques.
- F. Keep a journal while you read with thoughtful detailed reflections.
- G. Maintain a portfolio of your work over the year.
- H. Learn SAT vocabulary words and pass biweekly vocabulary quizzes.
- I. Write an essay as part of your January exam explaining what literary works read in class have had the most value for you.
- J. Demonstrate that you have synthesized the year's work by successfully completing the multifaceted June examination, which addresses the central question "What is American about American Literature?"

III. Major Activities:

Class time will be primarily devoted to discussion sometimes as a large group, sometimes in smaller groups. Work in groups will often lead to graded presentations to the whole class. Class time will also be used for quizzes, lectures, individual student/teacher conferences and writing. Reading and the composition of formal papers are understood to be homework and will rarely be done in class.

IV. General Expectations:

Success in this course will be determined by a willingness of students to take a good deal of responsibility for their own learning. Specifically, students will be expected to have completed the entirety of literary works prior to discussion. They will be expected to come to class with thoughtful questions and comments on what they've read and will be expected to offer those to the group on a regular basis. In group work, focus and intensity will be rewarded and rewarding. Superficiality and thoughtlessness will lead to a less than pleasing learning experience and, consequently, a less than pleasing grade. Since it is expected that Honors level students will demonstrate the ability, attitude and performance necessary to earn honors grades, students who consistently perform below the B level will not be retained in such courses.

Student Evaluation: Following is an approximation of how your work will be evaluated. Please note there will be an emphasis on essay writing and class discussions.

1. Essays and presentations 50%

2. Quizzes	10%
3. Homework, journals and classwork	30%
4. Daily participation	10%

VI. Texts/Materials:

Students will read and study the majority of titles from the following lists. In addition, students will read and study short stories, essays, and poems by authors such as Walt Whitman, Sherwood Anderson, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, T. S. Eliot, e. e. cummings, Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, Audre Lorde, Eudora Welty, Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Richard Wilbur, Wallace Stevens, Edgar Lee Masters, James Baldwin, Peggy McIntosh, and others.

- A. *Walden* (selections) and "Civil Disobedience" by Henry David Thoreau
- B. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- C. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- D. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- E. *Native Son* by Richard Wright
- F. *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- G. *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac
- H. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

VII. Scope and Sequence:

Because of school activities, weather, holidays, and other unforeseen circumstances, it is impossible to assign dates to assignments due, but you can expect to accomplish a good deal. Semester I: Through careful reading and thoughtful writing and through the composition of a good January exam, expect to have formulated a tentative answer to the central question in the course. Semester II: Through our reading, writing, and discussion, expect to have your tentative answer challenged so that you will be continually reformulating it with the idea that you will be presenting your answer at the end of the year.