

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NAME: English 11

DEPARTMENT: English

COURSE NUMBER: 0321

GRADE LEVEL(S): 11

PHASE: College Preparatory

YEAR X SEM QTR ___

Course Description:

Welcome to English 11, a college-preparatory course focusing on American Literature from the 1800s to the present. During this course you will be asked to read, write, and think carefully about a number of novels, short stories, poems, and essays from different authors, representing different time periods throughout American history. The purpose of the reading and the reflection you will be doing is to help you determine what it means to be an American or, in other terms, to determine who you are. The Central Question of the course and the final examination question in June is: "What is American about American Literature?"

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?"

General Expectations:

You are expected to come to class on time; submit all assignments on time, completed in ink or word-processed and on appropriate paper. Late essays will be penalized one grade per day late. If group work is assigned, you must complete it regardless of your absences or the absences of group members. You will keep your writing portfolio up to date. Make up all work missed by absences. Class participation is expected from everyone. You will be expected to come to extra help whenever you perceive a need or whenever you are asked to do so by your teacher.

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. Unit tests	20%
2. Essays	40%
3. Quizzes	10%
4. Homework, classwork, journals	20%
5. Class participation	10%

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, T. S. Eliot, e. e. cummings, Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, Audre Lorde, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eudora Welty, Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Richard Wilbur, Wallace Stevens, Edgar Lee Masters, James Baldwin, Peggy McIntosh, and others.

Semester I:

Walden (selections) and "Civil Disobedience", Henry David Thoreau
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
The Awakening, Kate Chopin
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Semester II:

Native Son, Richard Wright
The Crucible, Arthur Miller
On the Road, Jack Kerouac
The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

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: "What is American about American Literature?" 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.

Revised 6/10