

English III – American Literature

Course Syllabus 2009-2010

Instructor: Patricia Seraphin

Contact: pjsbronx@hotmail.com

Course Description:

This course will survey selected American authors representing the major periods, schools, and traditions in American literary history. We will cover texts from the eras before European colonization in the 1600s up through contemporary times. Our reading selections are taken from multiple genres (nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama). Some attention will also be paid to the historical/cultural contexts of the literary periods.

First Advisory:

Literature of Encounter and the Puritan Legacy

Anne Bradstreet; William Bradford; Christopher Columbus; John Edwards; Anne Hutchinson; Thomas Paine; John Smith; Phyllis Wheatley; John Winthrop

Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and Individual Voices, 1820-1865

Emily Dickinson; Fredrick Douglass; Ralph Emerson; Nathaniel Hawthorne; Washington Irving; Hermann Melville; Edgar Allen Poe; Henry David Thoreau; Walt Whitman

Second Advisory:

The age of Isms, 1865-1914

Charles Chestnut; Stephen Crane; W.E.B. Dubois; Paul Lawrence Dunbar; Charlotte Perkins Gilliam; Henry James; Mark Twain; Booker T. Washington; Kate Chopin; Anna Julia Cooper; James Weldon Johnson

Third Advisory:

The Rise of American Literary Modernism 1914-1945

Sterling Brown; Countee Cullen; E.E. Cummings; T.S. Eliot; F. Scott Fitzgerald; Ernest Hemingway; Langston Hughes; Zora Neale Houston; Claude McKay; Carl Sandburg; Richard Wright; Margaret Walker; Walter White; William Carlos Williams

Fourth Advisory:

American Prose and Drama and Poetry since: 1945

Atomic Age to Information Age

James Baldwin; Ralph Ellison; Nikki Giovanni; Martin Luther King Jr; Arthur Miller; Toni Morrison; Flannery O'Connor; J.D. Salinger; Leslie Marmon Silko; Alice Walker; Eudora Welty; Malcolm X

Expectations:

Students will be expected to...

- Refine organizational and mechanical aspects of writing
- Interpret, evaluate, characteristics and complex techniques of narrative genre, including story and style elements;
- Create and support a thesis/hypothesis that relates classroom texts to relevant and current student concerns
- Practice and refine the five paragraph essay, the summary essay and the précis
- Use the dictionary to research and apply etymologies and definitions

Writing Assignments

- Throughout the year you will have the opportunity to practice and refine your writing using at least three composition models: the five paragraph essay, the summary essay, and the précis. You will also practice timed writing.

Class Expectations:

- Students are expected to be in class on time and prepared every day. **Duke Ellington School of the Arts** follows a strict attendance and tardy policy, which will be enforced in this class. If you arrive 15 minutes after class starts you are considered absent.
- Students are expected to complete all reading and writing assignments on time. A large percentage of homework assignments will be reading novels and other pieces of literature. Pop quizzes will be given to ensure students are completing reading assignments on time.
- Students are expected to treat others with respect at all times. This includes respecting the learning environment as well as class materials.
- I will put time and energy into planning creative lessons and assignments. I expect students to receive assignments and lessons with a positive attitude. If you are experiencing any type of problem with an assignment or lesson, or other class procedure, please see me. I will be available to help you before school, by email or by appointment.

Necessary Materials:

You must bring the following materials to class **every day**.

- 3-ring binder
- 5 labeled dividers: Assignments, Class Notes, Vocabulary, Writing, Reading and Other Handouts
- loose-leaf in Class Notes section of binder
- Composition Notebook for Journal
- Several blue or black pens (or pencils)
- Several red, green or purple pens for editing
- Post-it notes (for active reading) and flashcards (for vocabulary)
- Class texts
- All novels and textbooks that are checked out to you must be with you in class every day and returned at the end of the unit.

Grading:

Students will be graded on the following scale:

93% -100% = A	78-79.9% = C+
90-92.9% = A-	73-77.9% = C
88-89.9% = B+	70-72.9% = C-
83-87.9% = B	68-69.9% = D+
80-82.9% = B-	60-67.9% = D
	0-59.9% = F

Grades will be based on writing assignments (25%), homework (15%), binder (10%), in-class activities (5%), journals (10%), tests (20%), quizzes (10%) , and participation (5%).

Late Work:

- The **only** late assignments I will accept are essays, papers, and projects. These major assignments will drop one letter grade (10%) per day for five days. No credit will be given after the fifth day. **No late homework or class work will be accepted for credit.**
- All class work must be turned in by the day after it is assigned in order to receive credit.
- Journals will only be accepted on the due date. It is very important to keep up in and finish anything not completed in class before the next class period in order to stay current and avoid falling behind.
- Missing assignments will result in a “zero” in the grade book and will cause your grade in this class to drop significantly. Turn your assignments in on time to receive a good grade.
- If you have extenuating circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment or assignments on time, see Ms. Seraphin.

Making up work after absences:

- If you have an excused absence you have a grace period equal to the number of days of your absence in order to complete the work assigned in class on those days.
- Students are responsible for getting their own make-up work from the teacher on the first day back from the absence.
- Assignments that are due on the date of an excused absence are due the first day upon returning from the absence. You will not be given extended time on previously assigned papers, essays, and projects unless you contact Ms. Seraphin and receive permission.
- All make up work must be handed directly to Ms. Seraphin.

Essays and Papers:

- Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date assigned.
- All final drafts of essays and papers are to be typed, double-spaced. If you do not have access to a computer, please hand write neatly in blue or black ink (no pencil), double spaced, and use only one side of the paper.
- Keep all drafts, including any notes, editing and revision materials. These may be required to be turned in with your final draft.

Student Binders:

Each student must keep a binder in which to keep all writing materials and any other necessary materials. Credit will be given for a thorough and organized writing binder.

Participation Points:

- Class discussions and group activities will benefit you greatly on tests and quizzes. You must participate in discussion and activities in order to receive full participation points.
- Although make-up assignments for excused absences will be given, missing class due to absences may result in missing valuable material generated in class discussions and group activities that will not be able to be made up.
- Participation points will be used in calculating your grade for the class. Follow the class policies outlined below in order to receive full participation points.

Cheating:

Cheating defeats the purpose of education. In my classroom I want to prepare students for a future in which their achievements are honestly earned and their leadership reputations are not dimmed by past shortcuts. Any and all forms of cheating will result in disciplinary action.

Cheating is taking another's work and calling it your own so that you derive the benefit.

Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Exchanging answers or assignments with others. This includes exchanging answers by electronic or recorded means and then submitting them as "original" work.
- Using hidden reference sheets during a test.
- Using programmed material in electronic devices when prohibited (as in on tests.)
- Submitting someone else's assignment as your own, in whole or part.
- **Submitting material (written or designed by someone else) without giving credit to the source (plagiarizing information from the Internet or other source or submitting work done by family, friends or tutors.)**
- Taking credit for group work when little contribution was made.
- Stealing tests, answers, or materials, or having unauthorized possession of such materials.
- Sabotaging or destroying the work of others.
- Submitting the same work in more than one course without the knowledge and approval of the teachers involved.
- Not following the guidelines specified by the teacher during a test (i.e. talking), or for a "take-home" test or exam.

Class Policies:

- **Duke Ellington School of the Arts** school attendance, discipline, dress code, and plagiarism policies will be followed in our classrooms.
 - Be on time with necessary materials every day.
 - Maintain a positive attitude; refrain from negative reactions to class activities. Treat and speak to fellow students with respect at all times. No inappropriate language. Use professional language in the classroom (**only**).
 - Do not groom yourselves during class. This includes applying makeup, combing your hair, clothing changes and/or adjustments, or any other type of personal hygiene. No hats, caps, skull caps, or do-rags in class.
 - Raise your hand to speak and do not interrupt others. Do not speak when I am giving instruction.
 - Electronic devices must be turned off at all times and kept in your locker or backpack. If your cell phone rings (sounds-off), I will take it and your parents can retrieve it from Father Payne. If I see any electronic devices (i-pods & the like), I will take them and your parents can retrieve them from Father Payne.
 - Stay on task. No outside homework or activities allowed.
 - **Only** beverages are allowed in the classroom. Dispose of all empty containers and cans as you exit class. **No** gum or food allowed.
 - If you are finished with all assignments and homework, read a book of your choice. Do not pack up bags early - work until the end of the period every day.
 - See Ms. Seraphin with any questions or concerns
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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

To ensure the success of our students, please read the information on this syllabus carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at any time. Please include a way that I may contact you so that we may have open communication, further assuring the success of all students.

Student Name (please print) Student Signature

Parent Name Parent Signature

Parent Phone Number Parent E-mail Address

I look forward to a fun and exciting year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patricia Seraphin