

English 11: Modern American Literature

Instructor: Mr. Rease

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Grade: 11th grade

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Office Hours: By appointment

School: B.C. Rain High School

Course Description

This course is designed to develop and improve students' writing, reading, and analytical skills. This course will help students develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills in relation to literary interpretation and analysis. Students will learn essential writing concepts which will adequately prepare them to be successful writers. In addition, students will learn to critically analyze works of literature. Most importantly, students will learn essential grammatical concepts for effective written and oral communication.

Student Learning Outcomes and Area Competencies:

Students will engage in intense class discussions to further their understanding of the literature. Through close readings of selected texts, students will deepen their understanding of the devices writers use to enhance the language to provide both meaning and enjoyment for their readers. Students will consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as smaller-scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of literary and poetic devices and techniques.
- Move effectively through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing/pre-write, and review.
- Read and critically analyze literature.
- Understand a work's structure, style, and themes as well as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.
- Study representative works from Modern American Literature with extensive concentration on a few works for in-depth understanding and analysis of their complexity.
- Consider the social and historical values a work reflects.
- Speak, listen, read, and write using the resources of language connotation, metaphor, irony, syntax, and tone.

Materials Required

- College ruled composition notebook
- 2 one subject notebooks
- Pens or pencils

Literature

1. Major Works:
 - a. *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
 - b. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
 - c. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
2. Various short story selections from the 11th grade textbook
3. Various poetry selections from the 11th grade textbook

Grammar

As needed per student's performance in writing and speech.

Vocabulary

Weekly vocabulary lessons will be introduced on Mondays; quizzes will be given on Fridays. Comprehensive unit tests will be given every **3rd week**. Keep vocabulary sheets through the 3rd week to study for the comprehensive test. Other vocabulary words are incorporated into selections from the lit book. They are defined at the bottom of the page and used in context within the literary piece. These words will be assessed during reading quizzes.

Major Assessments (60% of your final grade)

- Narrative Essay
- Argumentative Essay
- Literary Analysis Essay
- Classroom Project
- Poetry Recitation
- Various (yet very occasional) Tests

Minor Assessments (40% of your final grade)

- Reading Quizzes
- Vocabulary Quizzes
- Various Class Work (journal entries, participation, bell ringers, etc.)

Grading Scale

A: 90 or above B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 59 or below

Homework

The majority of your work outside of this class will entail reading which will be checked by quizzes or journal entries. Use and answer the study guide if one is provided. Most importantly, take notes as you read; you may be able to use them on the quiz.

Class Participation

Be ready and willing to share your thoughts and opinions as they pertain to the class. You will participate in numerous group assignments throughout the semester.

Journal

You will keep and maintain a journal throughout the semester. You will write in your journal daily; journal grades will be given weekly or bi-weekly.

Expectations

Heading

The upper left corner of your essays, reading quizzes, journal entries, and other written assignments should be in MLA format:

Your Name
Mr. Rease
Eng 11
10 August 2016

Center your title

Skip a line after the title and begin the assignment.

Late Work

Late **major** assignments will be reduced by 10 points for each day the assignment is late if the assignment is turned in after the due date. No major assignments will be accepted after **2 days** pass the due date. Lack of computer, printer, ink, and internet access will not be acceptable excuses. Plan and prepare accordingly. You will know the due date of a major assignment well in advance to adequately prepare.

Absences

Excessive absences will prevent you from passing the course. An absent because you are suspended is not an excused absent. If you are absent when a major writing assignment is due, you **can email me your assignment**. You may also send a hard copy through a courier (friend, parent, etc.). Otherwise, you may give me the hard copy when you return to school.

- Tests may be made up within **3 days** of your absence.
- Quizzes must be made up within **3 days** after you return to school. Always keep up with your work even if you are sick. Email me if you know you will be out for long period of times.

Cheating

If you are observed talking or looking on another student’s paper during testing, 10% will be deducted from your test score. If you have a “cheat sheet”, you will receive a zero for the test.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the deliberate or reckless representation of another’s words, thoughts, or ideas as one’s own without giving credit to the original author.” Plagiarism is a serious offense and **anyone caught plagiarizing will receive a zero for the assignment.**

1. To avoid plagiarism give written credit and acknowledgment to the source of thoughts, ideas, and/or words, whether you have used direct quotation, paraphrasing, or just a reference to a general idea.
2. If you directly quote works written by someone else, enclose the quotation with quotation marks and provide an appropriate citation (e.g. footnote, endnote, bibliographical reference).
3. Research, as well as the complete written paper, must be the work of the person seeking academic credit for the course. (Papers, book reports, projects, and/or other class assignments).



Parent’s Name (Printed) _____

Parent’s Signature _____

Student’s Signature _____

***By signing, I understand the expectations and policies of this course. This document can also be found on B.C. Rain High School’s website, <http://rain.mcs.schoolinsites.com/>. Select News and Events, school staff, Rease, Tarvaris, file manager, and then the course (English 11).**

Classroom Rules

1. Do not talk at inappropriate times. Examples of talking at inappropriate times are: talking while I'm teaching, talking while I'm giving instructions, talking during a test or quiz, or talking during anytime that I ask you or the class to stop talking.
2. Keep your language clean and polite. I expect you to conduct yourself in a respectful manner.
3. Raise your hand to ask a question or make a statement.
4. Remain in your assigned seat at all times during class.
5. Do not use your cell phone, text, or use any other electronic device not pertaining to the course in class. Cell phones must not be visible or heard during class. Cell phones will only be used when it is pertaining to an assignment.

Steps and Consequences

- Step 1: Warning and participation points deducted
- Step 2: Written warning & teacher/student conference/ points deducted
- Step 3: Parent call
- Step 4: Parent conference requested/possible detention/points deducted
- Step 5: Office referral/parent conference

***Note: If a student severely disrupts the learning of others, he/she will skip directly to a parent call and office referral.**

Procedures

- Be on time to class; you must have a pass to get into class after tardy bell has rung. No exceptions so do not be late!
- Be seated and prepared to work on the bell ringer as soon as class starts. You will only have approximately 6 minutes to complete your bell ringer each day.
- Be respectful, raise your hand to ask or answer a question.
- You will have 4 restroom passes each month; you can use them at your own discretion. You will sign out when you leave to go to the restroom. If you do not use any of your passes for the month, 15 points will be added to your lowest test grade.
- Clean your desk area before leaving. No food is allowed in class.
- Enter the room in an orderly fashion, do not run or horseplay while entering the room.

Student's Name (Print) _____ Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____