

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

American Literature B, Winter 2018-19  
Tom Cantwell, Room 504  
cantwell@4j.lane.edu

## **Welcome to American Literature B!**

### **Office hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 3:30-4:00, or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

In this course students read, discuss, and write about prose and poetry selections from modern American authors. Students will also study vocabulary and grammar. This class focuses on the Modernist and Post-Modernist literary eras and includes a study of such writers as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Arthur Miller, Sylvia Plath, Ken Kesey, and Alice Walker.

### **Major units and curriculum materials - American Literature A (fall trimester)**

- Native American literature – myths and legends, Leslie Marmon Silko, Louise Erdrich
- Nonfiction – Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Fiction – Edgar Allan Poe, Samuel Clemens, Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin
- Poetry – Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman

### **Major units and curriculum materials - American Literature B (winter trimester)**

- Harlem Renaissance – prose and poetry
- Drama – *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller
- Fiction – two of the following novels, depending on student choice:
  - *The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath
  - *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
  - *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
  - *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, by Ken Kesey
- Fiction – short stories
  - “Two Kinds,” by Amy Tan
  - “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place,” by Ernest Hemingway
  - “Negocios,” by Junot Diaz
- Poetry – Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Sylvia Plath, Joy Harjo

A formal writing task will be connected to each of the three main units: *Death of a Salesman* and the two novels that are chosen. For each unit, students will choose which mode to write in: expository essay, argumentative essay, or narrative story. Students must write in each of the three modes. Prompts will be provided.

NOTE: Some of the reading material, like *The Color Purple* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, contains mature content, including adult language and/or explicit sexuality. All titles are part of the established SEHS English curriculum. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

## **Grading**

50% - Assignments – Literature packets, outlines and rough drafts, discussion grades, etc.

25% - Assessments – Tests and quizzes

25% - Formal Writing Tasks – Final drafts - Expository essay, Argumentative essay, Narrative

Grades will be determined using a standard point system and letter grades tied to the following percentages: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% or less.

Appropriate modifications and accommodations will be made for identified special needs.

All work should be turned in on time, unless it is due to an excused absence, in which case it must be made up promptly according to the student handbook. Missing work will be entered as zero points. Late work may or may not be accepted, with or without penalty, at the discretion of Mr. Cantwell. Do not expect late work to be graded in a timely manner; late work gets graded late! Plagiarism (the use of another person's work, ideas, or wording without attribution) will result in loss of points and possible disciplinary action. Do your own work!

I will post grades on StudentVue/ParentVue, the district's online grading system, every week or two. I maintain a class website that I will update on Mondays with my best guess for the week ahead. Since things change depending on student progress, a daily agenda will be recorded on the front white board. The "A. Lit - Links" page of my website will have relevant links and printable versions of important handouts. Here is my site, which is linked from the SEHS homepage: <http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/cantwell/>.

## **Classroom Expectations**

- Be on time – in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings
- Be prepared – organized binder, completed work, writing tools, reading text
- Be on task – independently or when contributing to group and class discussions
- Be nice – The Platinum Rule: do unto others as they would have you do unto them
- Put away and silence your electronic devices – unless you have specific permission

Another way of looking at it:

- Does what I'm doing help or hinder my learning?
- Does what I'm doing help or hinder other students' learning?
- Does what I'm doing help or hinder the teacher's ability to teach?

Consequences for not following classroom expectations will be based on frequency and severity and may include verbal warning, time out of the room, detention, parent contact, referral to counselor and/or office, and report card comments. Cell phones must be put away or lodged in my "Cell Hotel." Phones out without permission will be confiscated for the period or the day.

## **I look forward to working with you!**

Parents and guardians, today I sent you an e-mail using our district communication system, so if you didn't receive that, we'll have to get it straightened out through the office. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail (cantwell@4j.lane.edu). I can be reached by phone through the front office (541-790-8000). Please sign below.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_