

11th Grade

*Language Arts*

C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\MEDIA\OFFICE12\Lines\BD14845_.gif

**Contact Information:**

Mrs. J. Hixson

hixsonj@southmoreland.net

Room 211

**Course Information:**

The main objective of English IIICP is to get a complete, thorough experience in American literature, writing, research, and public speaking. In this course we will be studying vocabulary, fiction, non-fiction, novels, plays, and writing. This course requires extensive readings from several genres and periods of American Literature. Your survey will stress literary and cultural themes. In addition to studying structure and style, you will consider the social and historical values reflected in a wide range of literary works. You will be required to make critical judgments about such things as character, motivation, theme, setting, point-of view, style, voice, and structure. You must also employ critical skills such as organization, comparison/contrast, persuasion, analysis, and audience-awareness.

During your Junior year you will be required to pass the Keystone, and you may choose to take other required aptitude tests in preparation for applying to college. Prior to taking the assessment you will have the skills necessary to excel on these exams and continue to your Senior year, but preparation for these exams require both student and teacher dedication. Writing assignments focus on critical analysis of literature and include descriptive, persuasive, informative, and narrative essays. You will be presented with attitudes, experiences, and ideas you may not have encountered in your own life by exploring literature, film, theatre, and other forms of language expression.

**Course Goals:**

* Recognize the predominant themes found in various examples of American Literature.
* Define and identify critical literary terms needed for the extensive study of literature.
* Compose samples of descriptive, persuasive, informative, and narrative writings.
* Identify the essential elements of plot, characterization, theme, setting, and purpose in short stories.
* Analyze classic and contemporary poetry.
* Confidently read and analyze various genres of literature independently.
* Demonstrate a strong command of MLA format and analytical writing.
* Discuss the cultural, biographical, and historical influences on various examples of American Literature.
* Create a resume and submission essay for the College Application process.
* Demonstrate knowledge of the Pennsylvania State Standards in Reading and Writing.

**Class Expectations:**

* Consider yourself an invited guest in my classroom. I hope to make you feel comfortable and welcome as you learn, and I expect you to want to be a part of this classroom.
* Be on time. The tardy policy requires that you be in your seat when the bell rings. Start copying your agenda when you get to your seat.
* Be prepared. I will let you know in advance what you will need for class. EVERYDAY you will need your folder and notebook.
* Any action that disrupts the classroom, such as cell phones, applying make-up, profanity, throwing things, complaining, etc., will not be tolerated.
* Listen when someone else is speaking. Raise your hand if you have something to say.
* R-E-S-P-E-C-T. No explanation necessary.
* Do not leave your seat until the bell rings; no standing by the door.

**Supplies:**

* Pen or Pencil
* Binder ***by September 4th*** (See me if there is an issue)
* Independent Reading Book
* Agenda Book
* Journal
* *Prentice Hall Literature Grade Eleven*

**Classroom Policies:**

* All late work will be assessed a ***one*** letter grade deduction for ***each day late***. After the assignment is one week late, the maximum points credited will be worth 50% of the original point value.
* All assignments submitted should be typed or neatly hand-written and follow MLA guidelines.
  + Heading: Name, Teacher, Course, Date (Day Month Year: 27 August 2012)
  + Title: Centered, No underlining, change in font, or italicizing
  + Page Numbers: Last Name and Page # (Top right-hand corner)

Doe 1

Jane Doe

Mrs. Hixson

English III CP

27 August 2012

Formatting in MLA

It is important to follow MLA format when writing papers in class. Formal papers should not be “fancy.”

* Short story, poetry, and novel vocabulary and questions will be assigned prior to reading the work, and the completed assignment will be due the day of the selection assessment.
* The opportunity will be given to rewrite any formal essay after reviewing the teacher’s evaluation. All mistakes must be addressed before resubmitting the essay or points will not be awarded.
* Extra-credit opportunities will be available throughout the year, and you are encouraged to suggest an extra-credit project for any content matter covered in the curriculum. If you are excited about a topic being covered in class, ask yourself what else you want to know.
* Students that frequently read independently will perform better on standardized reading exams and gain a deeper appreciation for and enjoyment of literature. You are required to bring an additional book to class for independent reading daily. You will receive class participation/bonus points for any book that you present to your peers. Also, you will be awarded occasional reading days throughout the year.

**Course Content**

**This course is a survey of American Literature and will be presented in chronological order. Do not forget the significance of the time period in which literature was written.**

**What makes American Literature American?**

**What is the relationship between place and literature?**

**How does literature shape or reflect society?**

* Themes in American Literature
  + Introduction to Philosophy
    - Emerson and Thoreau Essays
    - *Tuesdays with Morrie*
  + Literature of Early America
    - “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
    - “The Minister’s Black Veil”
    - *The Crucible*
  + MLA Research Paper (6-8 Pages)
  + The American Renaissance
    - The Poetry of Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman
    - Edgar Allan Poe assorted poems and stories
    - Poetry
  + *The Great Gatsby*
  + Mark Twain
    - Assorted Short Stories
    - *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
  + American War Literature
    - *The Patriot*
    - Short Stories
    - Essays
    - Poetry
    - Guest Speaker
  + *Of Mice and Men*
  + College Admission Essay/Resume
  + Standardized Test Preparation
  + Modern Literature

**General Grading:**

* Tests, Projects, and Papers 60%
* Journals and Participation 20%
* Homework 10%
* Quarterly/Unit Exam 10%