

Mrs. Kelley
ekelley@mrsd.org
Extension: 6828
Room 803

11 English American Literature Course Prospectus

Schedule and Assistance:

I am available every day after school by appointment, and my desk is located in room 803. Wednesday is usually meeting day. Don't count on seeing me after school those days.

Take advantage of these opportunities. The end of the quarter or the day before an assignment is due is the wrong time to come ask for help, and little sympathy will be extended. On the other hand, the student who has been a frequent visitor for extra help will often find that his or her grade will reflect the effort.

Introduction:

American literature is broken into literary movements or time periods. While certain pieces of literatures can be defined within one specific movement, many fit into more than one. The movements occur chronologically though we will not read everything in chronological order. The reason for this is you can more easily see how the movements are related to one another by pairing certain pieces together. This also lends to examining how different historical events influence American literature. There will be many themes, symbols, and topics that the literature and course work cover. Two of the main ones are **hero's journey** and the **anti hero**. Likewise, you will also gain a firm understanding of things like the **American dream** and **disillusionment**. There are four Big Idea Units we will work under this year. They are

Power and Powerlessness
Survival of the Fittest
Forbidden Love
Social Justice

Through the literature used and other venues, students will continue to develop skills that align with the Common Core State Standards for learning English such as writing, reading literary and informational texts, language usage such as grammar and vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills.

Students will be responsible for typical English class assignments such as nightly reading, essays, projects, vocabulary, and other assignments. They will also be responsible for a student work portfolio that demonstrates proficiency for each CCSS in the language arts content area for 11th grade English.

Grading System:

Your grades will be based on a points system.
Test: 100 points
Quiz: 40-50 points
Pop Quiz: 20-30 points
Major essays: 100 points
Minor essays: 50 points
Research paper drafts: 30 points

Research paper project:

Thesis statement: 10
Outline: 20
Rough draft: 30
Projects: 100
Oral Presentation (depending on preparation time) 50-100 points

Power School categories will be as follows Reading, Formal Writing, Informal Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language (vocabulary/ grammar). Each category will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Course Overview:

- Classical Root Vocabulary Program: will use Greek and Roman classical root words, prefixes and suffixes to decode and understand vocabulary directly related to SAT Prep and in line with the common core state standards for learning.
- SSR or sustained silent reading as well as small writing prompts to go along with the reading will occur at least once a week. During SSR students will either read a novel of his or her choice that is an American Classic or a choice from the library. Students may also elect to read a book that is assigned for a particular unit.
- We will begin the research paper process this fall. (this is a competency that must be passed with at least a 75% or higher. The grade will be recorded as the midterm for the school year.
- Summer Reading unit: Students will have read *The Martian* over summer break. Students will write an essay using the novel and other resources. Students will look at various media, and other literature related to the novel as well as discuss its relevance to current events and issues. This novel will kick off the Survival of the Fittest unit.
- Power and Powerlessness will look at the Romanticism literary movements in addition to Classicism. Students will gain an understanding of the struggles of power and powerless individuals and characters through literature and film.
- Forbidden Love Unit: Students will read *The Crucible* a play by *Arthur Miller* as well as several other short stories and possibly another novel as well as nonfiction works, other exercise and assignment for the Forbidden Love Unit.
- Social Justice Unit: Students will participate in literature circles and read a none fiction work such as *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *Montana 1948*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. and complete exercise and assignments for the Social Justice Unit.

Texts, that may be used, but the class is not limited to using are:

Glencoe American Literature text book (A.K.A. The Big Blue Book)

Vocabulary from Classical Roots (A.K.A. The Little Blue Book)

Novels

- *The Martian*
- *Of Mice and Men*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight In Heaven*
- *The Devil's Highway*
- *Montana 1948*
- *Friday Night Lights*
- *The Natural*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Painted Man*

Play/Allegory

- *The Crucible*
- *The Allegory of the Cave*

Other Selected Poems and Short Stories

- *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*
- *This is What it Means to Say Phoenix Arizona*
- *How to Write the Great American Indian Novel*
- *To Build a Fire*
- *The Devil and Tom Walker*

- *The Pit and the Pendulum*

- *The Minister's Black Veil*
- **And More!**

Films

- *Selma*
- *The Last of the Mohicans*
- *Newsies*
- *To Have and Have Not*
- *Guilty By Suspicion*
- *Of Mice and Men*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Crucible*
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Paper Format:

- All essay drafts must adhere to the following guidelines:
- All drafts must be typed (unless I say otherwise). Print hard copies of all your work (for now) let me figure out folders and things for Google docs please and thanks.) Save and back-up your work every 15 minutes in multiple places such as google docs. Which do it for you!, a USB drive or email account as well as on a computer hard drive. Computer mishap is never an acceptable excuse for late or “lost” papers. I would prefer you and something in hand written than tell me something occurred with the computer or printer.
- Papers must be double spaced, size 12 font, with one inch margins. Acceptable fonts are Times New Roman and Palatino.
- Essays must follow MLA documentation guidelines.
- Paper should be headed in the top left corner they should look like the example heading below.

Suzie Kew

Mrs. Kelley

11 English Prd. 4A

1 September 2013

Helpful formal writing suggestions:

- Ask for help when you need it.
- Do not procrastinate
- Do not use the first or second person point of view.
- Don't be afraid to cut, cut and cut when you write.
- Follow MLA style.
- Care about what you write.
- Consider your audience.
- **Cite sources.**
- Do not plagiarize.
- Include a works cited page with each draft.
- Proofread/edit on a hard copy and not on the computer screen.
- Read your writing and read it aloud when you proofread.
- Go to the library/ media center

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of claiming someone else's words and/ or ideas as your own. It is unacceptable. Consequences for plagiarism range from a failing grade on a paper to possible out of school suspension. This is a serious offense, and serious consequences will be given to offenders. In college, students can face expulsion and fines for plagiarism.

Preparation:

Woody Allen once said that ninety-percent of life is just showing up. He was right, but just showing up will not result in a passing grade in this course. You will need a binder for this class. I have some but not many. You are responsible for **bringing something to write with.** *Be prepared.*

Items you need to have to help you succeed this year in this class:

- **HAB Planner (keep yourself organized!)**
- Writing utensils: Pens (blue and or black) and pencils
- **YOUR** charged **CHROME BOOK** and Charger **EVERY** Single class.
- Paper loose leaf or note book (preferably with no fringe or removable fringe)
- A binder (the bigger the better) I have some, if you would like one.
- Binder dividers for organizational purposes (**THERE ARE MANY HANDOUTS I EXPECT YOU TO KEEP!**)
- A folder or two are usually helpful especially for research paper season
- USB or Flash Drive
- Highlighter

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is very simple. You need to be here. When you're not, you let me down and your peers who may be depending on you. **Every unexcused day you are absent results in a point deducted from your quarter grade. You are responsible for coming to me about missed work, and you have *one* day for each day you were absent.** Do not ask about a test a week after we took it; it's too late and you will receive no credit.

- You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings, share your written work, and comment constructively on classmates' work.
- Your attendance in class is crucial. Frequent absences will adversely affect your grade.
- **Absences do not excuse you from due dates;** you are responsible for keeping up with readings and assignments.
- Come to class on time! If you are habitually late, we will need to set up a meeting to discuss your continued success and participation in this course.
- Perpetually unprepared students will need to meet with me concerning the continued participation in this course.

Late Policy:

The English Department does not accept late homework for a grade. However, the Department policy regarding major papers and individual projects (minor nightly homework assignments do NOT fall into this category) is as follows. Work turned in on time will receive full credit. On the first day a major assignment is late, you will be granted a one-day grace period for full credit. If the major assignment is turned in on the second day after the due date, you may receive reduced credit. If you are consistent in turning in late work I will seek additional interventions. I reserve the right to determine if a student may need an additional extension on a major assignment (due to a student's personal circumstances). In addition to this, if you do not complete class work within in the time allotted in class, and you clearly did not use your time to work on it, you will receive a zero on the assignment. You must use class time wisely.

Homework:

Do not get in to the habit of not doing your homework. Get it done. There will be homework regularly whether it is a reading assignment or other. The expectation is that you will have work that you must complete outside of class time. It is ridiculous to think that you will complete things like your research paper in class time alone. Consider the fact that out of class work does not necessarily have to be done at home but you will certainly have trouble keeping up with the course if you chose not to do work meant for out of class. Be prepared and expect it.

Class Conduct and Behavioral Expectations:

I have, once and a while been accused of having a sense of humor. Though I enjoy having fun in class, a certain level of decorum needs to be maintained, and there are some things that will not be tolerated. Everyone here is an adult, and I expect each of you to treat everyone else in class with the same level of respect that you would wish shown to yourself.

On rare occasion, disciplinary action does become necessary. I detest detentions; thus, in order to make them less appealing to those who habitually acquire them, all teacher detentions will be for the entire after-school period. This includes those detentions given for being tardy.

- Leave your cell phone in your locker before you come to class. If I see a cell phone, I will ask you to put it away. If I see it again, I will take it. You may have it back at the end of the period. Come to class on time, and if you are late due to an emergency, do not interrupt me or others as you enter. It is your responsibility to meet with me at my convenience to find out what you missed.
- Do not begin packing your books before class is over. It's rude.
- Do not take class time to discuss an issue that is relevant only to you (e.g. questions about your grade, explanations for lateness or absence, etc). These and other personal matters are more appropriately dealt with during my prep period or via email.
- If you miss a class, please contact me via email, during advisory, after or before class at my convenience, or before or after school to know what you have missed. This is your responsibility.
- Respect other people's opinions even if you do not agree with them.
- Do not use profanity or disparaging language regarding homosexuals and people with handicapping conditions. You know what words I am talking about. You are an upperclassman. Using language that I reference here makes you appear ignorant, insensitive, and prejudice. Be careful.
- Be respectful and kind to everyone.

I also adhere to the school rules and policies when it comes to discipline you can visit those things in your student hand book.

Google Classroom: We also will be using Google Classroom. Most students have already been added to our class but if you are new or if you are not currently enrolled in this course at classroom.google.com with the class code (see Mrs. Kelley if you have not been added).

Prospectus Agreement

For Students:

I, _____, student, have read the prospectus and understood all of the policies of Mrs. Kelley's class and MRHS. I will follow them to the best of my ability and try my hardest in her class. My success is important to me.

X _____ (sign here, please)

For Parents/Guardians:

I, _____, parent or guardian of _____, have read the prospectus and understood all of the policies for Mrs. Kelley's class and MRHS.

X _____ (sign here, please)

Please fill out the following:

E-mail Address (The fastest means of communication):

Telephone Number:

Other Things I Should Know (allergies, family concerns, etc.):