

American Literature Syllabus

Bonita High School 2022-2023

Instructor Information

Instructor

Mrs. Jean Pierce

Email

j.pierce@bonita.k12.ca.us

Room Location & Hours

Rm 205 8:15am-4:00pm

General Information

Description

Students of American Literature will engage with past and current Americana themes through Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

Expectations and Goals

Students will engage with various forms of Literature and Informational Text and will focus on the definition of rhetoric, analyzing its content and uses, and writing rhetorically to effectively communicate. My goal for each individual student is to achieve academic success; this will look different for everyone, however, **my expectations are 100% effort and personal accountability.**

Controversial Texts: Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed in texts that are appropriate for high school-level English courses. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material.

Participation in this course depends on a level of maturity consistent with the age of high school students who have engaged in thoughtful analyses of a variety of texts. The best response to controversial language or ideas in a text might be a question about the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the language or idea in context. As such, students should have the maturity, skill, and will to seek the larger meaning of a text or issue through thoughtful research. I encourage all students to state their opinions in a mature, non-confrontational way and to support their ideas and opinions with evidence from our readings or personal experience.

Required Materials

- **3 Ring Binder** with loose leaf 8 x 11.5 inch, college ruled paper (**no spiral notebook paper will be accepted for turned in work**). This type of binder will assist with organization of handouts.
- **Page dividers** for Vocabulary, Bell Work, Notes, and one for each of the 5 Units (8 Total).
- **One Spiral bound notebook** for journaling.
- **Blue or Black ink pen(s)**. All assignments will be turned in digitally, typed, or written in blue or black pen. **NO PENCIL**. However, you may take notes in pencil or color coded pens.
- Correction tape and small sticky tabs/post it notes
- School provided chrome book.
- **Minga-** Pierce Juniors for updates and reminders.

Optional Materials

- Daily Planner or separate notebook for assignments and due dates (beneficial for ALL subjects).
- The novels we read this year will be provided by the library. However, it is your option to purchase your own copy. Please see me for the proper edition.

Required Text

- *The Crucible* Arthur Miller (Fall Semester)
- *The Great Gatsby* F. Scott Fitzgerald (Spring Semester)
- *The Catcher in the Rye* J. D. Salinger (Late Spring)
- Various short stories, poems, excerpts, podcasts, and song lyrics
 - These will be accessible in print or digitally

Course Schedule

Topics for Semester One

American Values and Traditions

American Values in the Declaration of Independence

Declaration of Sentiments and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Injustice and Inhumanity

Puritan Literature and Witch Hunts- *The Crucible*

Social Issues – Begin Problem/Solution Research Paper

Topics for Semester Two

Continue Research Paper

Human Behavior- Short Stories

The American Dream – *The Great Gatsby*

SBAC Prep

Disillusionment/Literary Circles – *Catcher in the Rye*

PACE Preparation for Senior Year!

Grades and Classroom Policy

- **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR FULL CREDIT.** An assignment may be turned in for a maximum of 50% UP TO ONE WEEK (5 School Days) AFTER DUE DATE.
- 504 Plans and IEPs take precedence over this policy

- For all Non-School Business related absences, students are given one additional day for submission of any assignments due on the date of the absence. Students are also given one additional day per day of absence to complete each assignment equaling the total amount of days missed.
- For all School Business related absences, students are required to submit assignments on or before the deadline, even though the student may not be present for the class. If an assignment is given during the class in which the student is absent, regardless for illness, personal day, or school business, the student is given an additional day to submit the assignment.
- **Assignments completed illegibly or in pencil will not be graded and will be counted as missing.**
- Assignments will be given points. Grades are NOT weighted. The categories for each assignment will be listed as either Reading, Writing, Listening/Speaking (combined), or Assessments.

School Policies

- I follow and enforce school policy on phones, dress code, social media/bullying, and academic integrity. Acquaint yourself with those rules so we can get to work.

**Please include your Signature and have your Parent/Guardian Sign
Return this portion tomorrow 8/23/22**

Mrs. Jean M. Pierce

Print Your Name _____ **Signature** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____