



Northview High School  
**American Literature**  
Course Syllabus 2016-17

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### **Course Description**

11th grade Literature and Composition is a thematic exploration of American Literature and literary traditions. Students analyze literary themes and trends, conduct research, compose papers, speeches, and deliver presentations. This course prepares students for college and career and enhances students' abilities to think critically.

**Textbook (class set):** *The American Experience*

**Supplemental Texts:** Titles vary by teacher.

*The Lively Art of Writing, The Crucible, Outliers, Into the Wild, The Great Gatsby, The Things They Carried, The Scarlet Letter, The Namesake, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Death of a Salesman, A Raisin in the Sun, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Adventures of Huck Finn, Into Thin Air, The Road, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, Looking for Alaska, In the Heart of the Sea, Stitches, Paper Towns* - \$20 replacement

### **Grading Scale**

- Summative Assessments - 40%
- Formative Assessments - 30%
- Homework – 10%
- Final/EOC (Comprehensive)—20%

**Each student MUST bring the following items to class daily:**

- Textbook and/or assigned supplemental text
- Three-ring binder with five divider tabs
- At least 100 pages of lined paper (inside binder)
- Assigned homework or other assessment
- Blue or black pen, pencil
- FOUR different colors of highlighter
- Composition notebook (Mrs. Conroy only)

### **Notebook**

The three-ring binder is used as the notebook for the class. Journals, class notes, quizzes, drafts, essays, and tests should be kept in the notebook for the duration of the semester. Students should be able to produce any assignment from the semester upon the request of the teacher.

### **Assignments**

Students must complete all assignments in pen or type and turn in these assignments when the teacher requests them on the assigned due date. If it is not ready at this time, the assignment is considered late. Late work may be turned in for

three days following the initial due date with the following penalties attached to each submission: *1 day late - 10% deduction; 2 days late - 20% deduction; 3 days late - 30% deduction.*

All assignments, including final essays, may be submitted in blue or black ink. Students always have a backup plan for producing work should technical difficulties arise. **To clarify, computer malfunctions do not exempt students from late work deductions.**

### **Absences**

Attendance is mandatory in American Lit. Students are responsible for any material covered during an absence. Frequent absences negatively impact students' grades.

Students must notify the teacher of school-related absences prior to the absence, or the assignments due or covered on that day will not be accepted. Field trips, club meetings, athletic activities, and other functions neither excuse work due, nor postpone the due date. Put simply, each student is responsible for attaining all material covered in the course regardless of absences.

### **Make Up Work**

The student is responsible for approaching the teacher for make-up work the day s/he returns from an absence. Make up work is defined as any work assigned during an absence. Remember that any work assigned before an absence is still due on the assigned due date. Students are expected to self-advocate; it is not the teacher's responsibility to approach the student.

### **Fulton County Policy—Provision for Improving Grades**

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.

Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

### **Recovery Policy**

1. Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below cumulative average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.

2. Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.

3. So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

\*Grading guidelines for recovery assignments will vary by department. It is the responsibility of the student to fully understand the grading guidelines/highest possible score for completed recovery work.\*

### **Honor code**

As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as “the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience.” Violations of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment, plus an honor code violation form placed in the student’s disciplinary file. Read the handbook carefully to fully understand what constitutes a violation.

### **Northview HS English Department Plagiarism Statement**

Plagiarism is presenting another’s words or ideas as though they are entirely one's own.

#### **Plagiarism is an Honor Code Violation.**

Acts of plagiarism can include, but are not limited to:

1. using words or ideas from a published source or the internet without proper permission;
2. using the work of another student (e.g., copying another student’s homework, composition, or project in entirety **or** in part;
3. Using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid author.

***Excessive editing note:** Students learn to write well through practice and independent exploration of language manipulation. This effort, like any learning experience, often requires persistence and “perspiration.” Well-meaning parents, siblings, tutors, and others who contribute their own ideas, words, phrases, and revisions to a student’s writing, not only cause that student to miss the opportunity to achieve self-reliance, but also inhibit the student from presenting his own voice.*

*Positive ways to help a student grow in his writing process include reading the paper or writing exercise and marking areas that need clarification, punctuation, elaboration, or more precise wording, allowing the student to figure out the error and correct it independently. Oftentimes having the student read the paper aloud will greatly help in error identification. Cues such as, “What exactly do you mean?” or “This sentence seems awkward” are also very appropriate.*

Plagiarism on any project or paper at Northview High School will result in a zero for the assignment and an Honor Code Violation. Unless directly stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on written work is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their coursework or homework are also in violation of the Honor Code.

**American Literature & Composition Movie List  
2016-2017**

Dear Parents:

Your son/daughter(s) will be studying film during his/her language arts course this year. In addition to connecting the fiction and nonfiction works we read thematically to select films, students will learn to read film rather than merely watch for entertainment. Much like we have traditionally analyzed literature, students will learn that film is a medium of expression, commentary, and opinion as are works of fiction and nonfiction. We will watch many of the films in their entirety; however, we may simply focus on specific clips chosen from films.

<b>Film</b>	<b>Director / Year Released</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<i>Thank You for Smoking</i>	Jason Reitman (2005)	R (language and some sexual content)
<i>Shawshank Redemption</i>	Frank Darabont (1994)	R (language and prison violence)
<i>We Were Soldiers</i>	Randall Wallace (2002)	R (sustained sequences of graphic war Violence and language)
<i>The Crucible</i>	Nicholas Hytner (1996)	PG-13
<i>Into the Wild</i>	Sean Penn (2007)	R (language and some nudity)
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Baz Luhrmann (2013)	PG-13
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Jack Clayton (1974)	PG
<i>The Grizzly Man</i>	Werner Herzog (2005)	R (language)
<i>A Few Good Men</i>	Rob Reiner (1992)	R (language)
<i>In the Heart of the Sea</i>	Ron Howard (2015)	PG-13
<i>Paper Towns</i>	Jake Schreier (2015)	PG-13
<i>The Help</i>	Tate Taylor (2011)	PG-13
<i>Dead Poets Society</i>	Peter Weir (1989)	PG

While those listed above have been frequently taught, other films may be included based solely on relevance to course discussion, curriculum content, and student interest. If any of these additional films do not appear on Fulton County Schools' approved list, a separate permission slip will be necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent's Name

Film permission: Please circle one.  
YES NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Northview High School 2015-2016 Syllabus Signature Sheet

Student Name

**(Printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: American Lit. & Comp.

**Please read the teacher's full-length syllabus. Log on to [www.northviewhigh.com](http://www.northviewhigh.com) then click on the syllabus link to locate the teacher's name. Sign below if you have read the online syllabus.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Recovery Policy**

1. Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below *cumulative* average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. *Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.*
2. Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.
3. So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

**\*Grading guidelines for recovery assignments will vary by department. It is the responsibility of the student to fully understand the grading guidelines/highest possible score for completed recovery work.\***

**Sign below if you understand the recovery policy.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

HONOR CODE: Cheating has been defined as giving or receiving information relating to a gradable experience including the use of sources other than those specifically approved by the teacher. Plagiarism and the related act of allowing another student to use one's work are not to be considered inconsequential pranks. Such acts involve serious moral implications; they constitute lying and stealing. They are unjust to teachers who spend valuable time evaluating the paper. They are ultimately harmful to the student committing the act, who is deliberately undermining his/her integrity, destroying his/her reputation, and breaking the trust that must exist between a student and teacher. An honor code violation results in a zero on the assignment, no opportunity to make up the work, and disciplinary action. For the complete honor code policy, visit the Student Handbook on [www.northviewhigh.com](http://www.northviewhigh.com).

**Sign below if you understand the consequences of cheating at Northview High School.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**TECHNOLOGY POLICY:** Northview computers are only for school research and projects. The Internet may not be used for personal reasons. Any unauthorized use of the internet will be grounds for disciplinary and/or legal action as well as loss of Internet privileges. Attempts to log into the internet using another person's password, falsely posing as a school system administrator, or other security violations are grounds for termination of privileges and disciplinary measures. Computer vandalism (including food/drink in a lab) is prohibited and will result in immediate termination of Internet and computer access as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

***Violators are subject to criminal prosecution. For the complete technology policy, visit Student Handbook on [www.northviewhigh.com](http://www.northviewhigh.com).***

It is a violation of the above policy:

to download or install any executable programs (such as games, MP3 players, video players, chat programs, FTP programs, music or video sharing programs, etc.) to a school computer, or on to any student's share folder (Z drive).

to store any files (documents, pictures, videos, etc.) on any student's share folder (Z drive) that are not directly used in an assignment or teacher directed work; no personal documents, pictures, music videos or other files.

to use the school computers and internet connection to access email, games, chat rooms, sharing sites, ecommerce sites, etc, unless specifically directed by the teacher.

**If this form is not signed by the student and a parent or guardian by Monday, August 24, the student's computer account will be disabled until the form is signed. Sign below if you understand the Northview technology policy.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please review BOTH sides of the Syllabus Signature Sheet. Verify that you have signed your understanding of the three policies listed: Recovery, Honor Code, and Technology.**