

Syllabus for American Literature and Composition S
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Course Description

American Literature and composition S is a sheltered course for ESOL juniors, which is designed with shortened lists of reading materials and somewhat moderate speed, but it still follows the same GPS and the language arts curriculum for the Fulton County schools. This is a chronological and cumulative course, which means that we move from oldest to newest on a timeline, and that no material is "finished" merely because you were evaluated on some portion. There is a great relationship between American Literature and U.S. History. If you are taking them simultaneously, or if you retain much of your previous study of U.S. History, this *can be* tremendously advantageous. Make it so!

Some of the selections in the text are probably more challenging than any other reading material you have encountered thus far and may require more time with it than you have spent in other courses.

Unit 1: *Beginnings to 1750* pp. 4-12, *The Earth on Turtle's Back*, p.16, *When Grizzlies Walked Upright*, p. 19, *from the Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* p. 44, *from Of Plymouth Plantation*, p. 78, *To My Dear and Loving Husband*, p. 100, *from Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, p.108

Novel: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Unit 2: "A Nation is Born" pp.128-136, *from Poor Richard's Almanack*, p. 146, *All the News that's Fit to Print: Colonial Newspapers* p. 152, *Speech in the Convention*, p. 191, *Inaugural Address*, p. 196, *from Roots*, p. 214.

Unit 3: "A Growing Nation" p. 230, *The Devil and Tom Walker* p. 242, *The Raven* p. 326, "Transcendentalism: The Seekers" p. 384, *from Nature*, p. 308, *from Self-Reliance*, p. 391, *from Walden*, p. 402, Selections by Emily Dickinson, *Because I Could not Stop for Death* p. 429, *The Brain is Wider than the Sky* p. 426, *There is a solitude of space* p. 427, *Water is taught by thirst*, p. 428, *Song of Myself*, p. 436, *I Hear America Singing*, p. 442, *I Too*, p. 448.

Unit 4: "Division Reconciliation and Expansion" pp. 464-470, *Mark Twain and the American Language*, p.472, *An Episode of War*, p. 476, *from My bondage and My Freedom*, p. 496, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*, *The Gettysburg Address*, p. 522, *A Confederate Account of the Battle of Gettysburg* p. 542, *Gulf War Journal from A Woman at War*, p. 552, *from Life on the Mississippi*, p. 564, *From Lonesome Dove*, p. 626, *The Story of an Hour*, p. 634, *Douglass*, p.658. *We Wear the Mask*, p. 660, *Richard Cory*, p. 668, *Lucinda Matlock*, p. 669

Novel: *The Great Gatsby*

Unit 5: "Disillusion, Defiance, and Discontent, pp. 706-713, *The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter*, p.732, *In a Station of the Metro*, p. 734, *This is Just to Say*, p.736, *The Turtle from The Grapes of Wrath*, p. 766, *In Another Country*, p. 809, *A Worn Path*, p. 821, *Chicago*, p. 839, *Grass*, p.840, *The Jilting of Granny Weatherall*, p. 846, *Race at Morning*, p. 860, *Birches*, p. 882, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, p. 885 *Mending Wall*, p. 886, "The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution, p.910, *from Dust Tracks on a Road*, p. 914, *Dream Variations*, p. 928, *Refugee in America*, p. 929, *From The Dark Tower*, p. 936, *A Black Man Talks of Reaping*, p. 937.

Unit 6: "Prosperity and Protest" pp.960-967, *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*, p. 970, *The First Seven Years*, p. 988, *Average Waves in Unprotected Waters*, p. 1028, *Suspended*, p. 1049, *The Rock Pile*, p. 1149, *Losses*, p. 1173, *Mirror*, p.1180, *Runagate Runagate*, p. 1184, *The Writer in the Family*, p. 1202, *Ambush from The Things They Carried*, p. 1222.

TEXT: Literature Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes: The American Experience \$80.00

SUPPLEMENTAL NOVELS: \$15.00

Grading Procedures

The number of points earned will be divided by the number of possible points in four categories to determine the overall grade. Assignments will vary in the number of points possible, depending on length and intensity of the assignment. Students will usually know before an assignment is due the number of possible points available and under which category the points will enter.

Tests, Compositions, Projects	40%
Quizzes	30%
Classwork/Homework/Participation	10%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	20%

I reserve the right to change course requirements and consequent grading requirements as the year progresses. Changes will be made in all cases for the best interest of the majority of students.

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.

Northview Recovery Procedure

Opportunities for students to recover from a low/failing cumulative grade 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.

Students must contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities at the time his/her grade falls below 74. 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.

Assignments

Students must complete all assignments in ink or type. The homework and/or classwork assignments must be ready to hand in when it is collected. If it is not ready at this time, it may be turned in, but will only receive partial credit. Students may not turn in assignments during instructional time. Unlike the federal taxes, they may not be mailed either to school or to the instructor's home address, with a postmark of the due date. The materials must be received by the instructor on the due date. They may be e-mailed to lees3@fultonschools.org. Any assignment due on the day of a field trip must be turned in prior to the student leaving for that field trip. Similarly, with prearranged absences, even excused, the assignment must be turned in on its due date or before. The student is responsible to ensure that assignments are turned in; he/she may not blame parents, pets, cars, sisters, brothers, aliens, technology, etc. for late work. It will not be accepted for full credit.

Homework and classwork that is not turned in on time or that is handed in incomplete will only receive partial credit. One minute late is the same as one day late. Half complete is the same as three quarters complete. Please be responsible and have your work finished and ready to turn in when it is collected.

Parallel Readings

Novels and plays not in the text will be issued from school sets. Students are responsible for bringing these to class when assigned and for keeping them in good condition just as they would a textbook. Some students may wish to purchase a book so that they may highlight or take notes in the text itself. This is a suggestion, not a requirement. The replacement cost for lost supplemental books is \$15.00.

We will be discussing these books and analyzing critical elements together as part of your learning process; therefore students should NOT bring Cliff's Notes, printouts of Sparknotes or any other comparable interpretation or summary. Think for yourself!

Two of the following pieces will accompany our study of materials in the textbook. Additional titles may be included from the NHS approved list.

The Crucible (Miller)

Ethan Frome (Wharton)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Twain)

Our Town (Wilder)

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

The Great Gatsby (Fitzgerald)

Absences

Attendance is mandatory in the American Literature course. Students are responsible for any material covered during their absence. Consecutive absences may result in a significant drop in the student grade. Students should check the returned materials file upon returning from absence for assignments returned during their absences. School related absences require notification prior to the absence or the assignments due/covered will not be accepted. Field trips, club meetings, athletic activities/events, and other functions neither excuse work due, nor postpone the due date. Any material covered while the student is involved in a school related function must be attained.

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Work

Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook

The Language Arts department policy regarding late work is as follows: No late homework will be accepted unless a student has an excused absence. To receive full credit for a major assessment, the work must be turned in on the due date. After the due date, 10% of the earned grade will be deducted per day for 3 days; after the third day, the student will no longer receive credit.

Missed assignments due to *unexcused absences* (other than homework) will be accepted with a penalty of ten points per day late. *The maximum score attainable for work made up due to an unexcused absence is 80%.* Missed tests, quizzes, or presentations that were assigned before the

student was absent will be due *the day* the student returns to school. Assignments that were not known will be due according to Fulton County policy - one day's grace for each day absent. Students who fail to make up the work according to these rules or according to an arranged plan with the teacher will be unable to receive credit.

Work missed due to an *excused absence* will have the same number of days absent to make up the work. No penalties will be imposed. As stated above, missed tests, quizzes, or presentations that were assigned before the student was absent will be due *the day* the student returns to school. Assignments that were not known will be due according to Fulton County policy - one day's grace for each day absent. Students who fail to make up the work according to these rules or according to an arranged plan with the teacher will be unable to receive credit.

The instructor will NOT remind the student of work (including papers or tests) that needs to be made up. To insure maximum continuity of instruction, students are encouraged to keep the phone numbers of at least two other students in the class so that information regarding class activities can be gained the night before returning to class. (This is not a requirement, only a suggestion.) **It is the sole responsibility of the student to ask for make-up work and to provide late or missing work to the instructor. Please discuss these issues with the teacher at the end of the class period.**

Help Sessions

Students are always encouraged to come for additional help in the mornings or afternoons after class, provided 24 hours notice is given. Impromptu visits are welcomed when **only** a brief time is required.

Conferences

Conferences can be scheduled before or after school. **The best way to get in touch with the teacher, especially for urgent messages, is through e-mail.** Grades may be viewed via Parent Connect website. Information about Parent Connect is available in the front office.

Video Viewing Guidelines

Within the curriculum there poses the opportunity for teachers to incorporate different forms of technology into the classroom. One of these forms of technology is the showing of clips of related movies or related movies in their entirety. Any video rated PG-13 not found in the Media Center will have prior approval of administration. If you have any concerns about video viewing, please indicate the concern on the bottom of this form.

****The teacher reserves the right to alter the course of study and assignments as he deems necessary and beneficial to the students. If changes occur, students will be notified in advance during class. All Northview policies will be enforced with the classroom.***

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. Upon teacher request, students may be required to email essays, research papers, or other written work to turnitin.com. The website checks the submission for plagiarism, provides a receipt for the student to give to the teacher, and reports to the teacher that the student's work was not copied from any source. Students will be trained on the use of turnitin.com in the first week of school. Students who do not have email access at home may use the computers in the media center.

Plagiarism is an Honor Code Violation

Plagiarism is presenting another's words or ideas as though they are entirely one's own. 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 (including homework) is not acceptable.

Students who willingly provide other students with access to their coursework or homework are also in violation of the Honor Code.

SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Please email me at yashina@fultonschools.org if you have comments or concerns. The school sends out grade reports every four and a half weeks. It is the student's responsibility to inform you of his or her grades. Individual student progress can also be tracked through Parent Connect. Interest and encouragement at home in student activity and progress is always beneficial.

Please refer to the NORTHVIEW STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK for important information regarding procedures, school policies, and dates.