



**Northview High School  
Language Arts Department  
Course Syllabus for Multicultural Literature  
2016-17**

**Course Title:** Multicultural Literature  
**Instructors:** -Jordan - Room 510; Hart - Room 508; Wilkens- Room 541  
-Emails can be found on the Northview website.

**Textbook Information:**

Textbooks/Novels become the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued from the time they are distributed until they are returned to the textbook coordinator/teacher. Damage to an issued book, tampering with a barcode or loss of a student's text book will result in an assessment for the value of a replacement book. If a damaged book is issued to a student then the student has two weeks to report it in the media center so the damage can be recorded or replacement book can be issued. Damaged books are considered to be books with broken bindings, torn pages or missing pages, written on pages, detached cover, missing or unreadable barcode.

*\*There is no official textbook for Multicultural Literature*

**Novels:** Replacement Cost: **\$20.00**

**Course Description:**

This course challenges students to push the boundaries of the conventional Language Arts class. Students will use various literary theories to examine literature, film and art for the purpose of discovering more about themselves and their worlds. To maximize student learning, the teacher will act as a facilitator and the student as an active learner. Students will be required to participate in class discussion and group work. Students will use writing as a vehicle to express their ideas, and opinions. This course is designed around three units of study: Fault and Redemption, Social Injustice and Outside Influences.

- All students will meet or exceed the Georgia Performance Standards for this course. These standards can be viewed by accessing the following website: [https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Frameworks/CCGPS\\_ELA\\_Grades11-12\\_WSLTeacherGuide\(MultiLit\).pdf](https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Frameworks/CCGPS_ELA_Grades11-12_WSLTeacherGuide(MultiLit).pdf)

## Unit descriptions:

### **Unit 1: Fault and Redemption**

As humans we falter, and, hopefully, redeem ourselves. We will look at how literature, film and art present the idea of fault and redemption. Students will use Aristotle's Literary Theory as a framework for examining this story-telling model. Students will examine in-depth the idea of a flawed protagonist. How are flaws created? What is the result of the flaw(s)? Once a human falls, how does he/she get back up, if at all? The texts present a variety of flawed protagonists. Students will analyze the protagonists' flaws and how the protagonists attempt to redeem themselves. \*Not every text is listed and some are subject to change.

<b>Anchor Text</b>	<i>The Kite Runner</i> -Khaled Hosseini
<b>Supplemental Texts</b>	- <i>The Color Purple</i> - <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (excerpt/intro) –Tennessee Williams - <i>Little Miss Sunshine</i> - Clip -Aristotle's Literary Theory
<b>Summative Assessment(s)</b>	-Socratic Seminar -Fault and Redemption Essay

### **Unit 2: Social Injustice**

A brief glance around the world clearly demonstrates that life isn't equal. We will delve into this idea through the lens of social, more specifically, political injustices. Often times we live in a vacuum; this unit helps students see the outside world through a broader lens. \*Not every text is listed and some are subject to change.

<b>Anchor Texts</b>	- <i>They Poured Fire on us from the Sky</i> -Benson + lit circles
<b>Supplemental Texts</b>	-Various articles/essays regarding prison system, death penalty, and current events - <i>In the Name of the Father</i>
<b>Summative Assessment(s)</b>	-Socratic Seminar -Research Project

### **Unit 3: Outside Influences**

We are inundated daily by a barrage of information. Throughout this unit, we will break down information presented to us. We will begin with an analysis of the news: What is news? How, if at all, are reporters, newscasts, newspapers biased? How do we account for bias? We will look at social media and its pervasive influence in our lives. With a focus on nonfiction texts and film, we will determine how messages are created and what is really being said in the messages. We will use this as a framework for assessing what the media's influence should be in modern society. \*Not every text is listed and some are subject to change.

<b>Anchor Texts</b>	- <i>Geeks</i> by Jon Katz or <i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri
<b>Supplemental Texts</b>	-Episode(s) from HBO series <i>Newsroom</i> - <i>V for Vendetta</i> -Selected essays and articles
<b>Summative Assessment(s)</b>	-Newspaper

*\*Texts and assessments are subject to change.*

## Course Requirements

Grade may be affected if students do not come to class prepared and on time.

**Students MUST bring the following items to class daily:**

- Textbook and/ or assigned novel
- Notebook/ journal/notebook paper
- Assignments due for the day

**Tutorial Hours: 8-8:30am, or during lunch with appointment, or after school by appointment**

## Evaluation and Grading Scale

A= 90 and above      B=80 – 89      C=70 – 79      F=69 and below

The number of points earned divided by the number of points possible in each grading category determines the grade. Assignments are graded using the following categories:

Category	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Summative assessment	Major tests/essays, projects, presentations, speeches, multimedia productions	40%
Quizzes	Reading, Grammar, etc.	25%
Formative assessment	Notes, grammar work, in class work, out of class assignments, quizzes, informal evaluations, small projects, discussions, overall work completion, etc.	15%
Final Exam		20%

## Journals

At the beginning of most classes, I will assign a **timed** writing topic. The student will spend the first three to five minutes of class writing on the topic. If the student does not finish writing on the topic during class time, the student will finish the writing as homework. If the student is absent, he or she may get the topic from a peer and do the assignment for homework. **Even if you are absent**, you are required to complete that day's daily writing. I will randomly check the daily writings for a grade.

## Assignments

The assignment must be ready to hand in when it is collected. If it is not ready at this time, it will neither be accepted nor considered on time, unless the student previously made arrangements with the instructor. 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 in order to have the potential to receive full credit. Assignments will neither be assigned nor accepted the day preceding the exam. 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 in order to receive full credit. The student is responsible to ensure that assignments are turned in; they may not blame parents, dogs, cars, sisters, brothers, broken technology, aliens, etc. for late work. It will not be accepted without penalty.

## Absences

Attendance is mandatory in the World Literature course. Students are responsible for any material covered during their absence. Either consult the instructor during morning office hours or request the material from a trustworthy classmate. 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, TAG sessions 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.

### **Make-up Work:**

Make-up work is the *student's* responsibility. It must be initiated by the student on the first day back to class after an absence. Only assignments missed during **excused** absences can be completed. An absence is excused if the student presents an official "Excused Absence" form from the attendance clerk or other member of administration; an absence is also excused if the student's name appears on the early dismissal, school field trip, or other appropriate list. All make-up work must be completed within one week, which starts the day a student returns from an absence. To complete any assessment, students must schedule an appointment. Daily assignments will be listed for each student to record upon his/her return.

On major (summative) assessments, students must turn in the assignment on the due date to have the opportunity to earn full credit. If the assignment is one day late, the highest possible grade becomes a 90%. If the assignment is 2 days late, the highest possible grade becomes an 80%. If the assignment is 3-5 days late, the highest grade becomes a 70%. If the assignment is six or more days late, the highest possible grade becomes a 50%. Major essays will be given an advanced due date and there will be a process to completing these assignments. Because of this, a student is still required to turn in the assignment (have parent/friend/sibling bring to school, email, turn in early) if they are absent the day it is due...**excused or unexcused**.

Tests and quizzes **must** be made up within 5 days of the absence.

### **Recovery Policy:**

See [page 23](#) in the Northview student handbook (also available through school website) for Fulton County's policy regarding recovery.

### **Exemption Policy:**

See [page 23](#) of the school handbook for the policy regarding exam exemption.

### **Honor Code:**

See [page 14](#) in the Northview student handbook (also available through school website) for Fulton County's policy on Honor Code.

### **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 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.

**Turnitin.com:**

Students will 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. Papers not submitted to turnitin.com by the cutoff date will be considered late.

**Grade Reporting Schedule**

PARENTS!: In addition to the school sending progress reports home with your child every 6 weeks, you can view all grades online through the Home Access Center. You can sign up for Home Access Center through the Fulton County website after receiving your login and password from the school's guidance office. You are highly encouraged to check this weekly especially for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester seniors.

## Multicultural/Contemporary/World Literature Movie List

Dear Parents,

Your son/daughter(s) will be studying film during his/her language arts course. These courses introduce the concept of reading film rather than merely watching for entertainment. Much like we have traditionally analyzed literature, students learn that film is a medium of expression, commentary, opinion, etc. as are novels/ plays/ etc. Throughout this course we will be exploring how film directors use their craft to make their movies and influence their audiences. All the films we will be watching capture excellent examples of film direction and technique, as well as include other texts that enable the students to use the analytical skills they have already learned through the course. We will not be viewing all of these films in their entirety (unless your student is enrolled in Contemporary Literature); there will be specific clips chosen from films used to illustrate a specific technique.

<u>Film</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Rating</u>
21 (2008)	Robert Luketic	PG-13
3:10 to Yuma (2007)	James Mangold	R (violence)
300 (2006)	Zack Snyder	R (intensive, graphic combat and sexuality)
Amelie	Jean-Pierre Jeunet	R (sexual content)
American Graffiti	George Lucas	PG
A Beautiful Mind (2001)	Ron Howard	PG-13
Batman Begins (2005)	Christopher Nolan	PG-13
Beowulf	Robert Zemeckis	PG-13
Big Fish	Tim Burton	PG
Castaway	Robert Zemeckis	PG-13
Children of Men (2006)	Alfonso Cuaron	R (language, violence)
Cinderella Man (2005)	Ron Howard	PG-13
Citizen Kane (1941)	Orson Welles	NR
Cloud Atlas	The Wachowskis	R (violence, language, sexuality)
Cool Hand Luke	Stuart Rosenberg	NR
Crash (2007)	Paul Haggis	R (strong violence, language, sexuality)
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)	Ang Lee	PG-13
Edward Scissorhands (1990)	Tim Burton	PG-13
Fantastic Mr. Fox	Wes Anderson	PG
Ferris Bueller's Day Off	John Hughes	PG-13
Forrest Gump (1994)	Robert Zemeckis	PG-13
Friday Night Lights	Peter Berg	PG-13
Fruitvale Station	Ryan Coogler	R (violence, language)
Goodfellas	Martin Scorsese	R (violence, language)
Good Will Hunting	Gus Van Sant	R (language, mature dialogue)
Gran Torino (2008)	Clint Eastwood	R (violence, language)
Groundhog Day	Harold Ramis	PG
Heathers (1989)	Michael Lehman	R (language)
Hotel Rwanda	Terry George	PG-13
House of the Flying Daggers	Zhang Yimou	PG-13
Inception (2010)	Christopher Nolan	PG-13
In the Name of the Father	Jim Sheridan	R (language, politically generated violence)
Jaws (1975)	Steven Spielberg	PG
Juno	Jason Reitman	PG-13
L.A. Confidential (1997)	Curtis Hanson	R (violence and language)
Life is Beautiful	Roberto Benigni	PG-13
Limitless	Neil Burger	PG-13
Looking at Movies	Barsam, Monahan	NR
Looper	Rian Johnson	R
Mad Hot Ballroom	Marilyn Argelo	PG
March of the Penguins	Luc Jacquet	G
Mean Girls (2004)	Mark Waters	PG-13
Megamind	Tom McGrath	PG
Memento	Christopher Nolan	R (violence, language)
Miller's Crossing	The Coen Brothers	R (violence, language)
Monty Python & the Holy Grail	Gilliam, Jones	PG
Mulan (1998)	Tony Bancroft/Barry Cook	G
Napoleon Dynamite (2004)	Jared Hess	PG
North by Northwest (1959)	Alfred Hitchcock	NR
Oblivion	Joseh Kosinski	PG-13
Othello (1995)	Oliver Parker	R (some sexuality)

Pan's Labyrinth (2006)	Guillermo Del Toro	R (language, violence)
Pixar Shorts	Kaplan, Milsom	NR
Pleasantville (1998)	Gary Ross	PG-13
Psycho (1960)	Alfred Hitchcock	NR (violence)
Pulp Fiction	Quentin Tarantino	R (violence, language, drug use)
Rabbit-Proof Fence	Phillip Noyce	PG
Rear Window (1954)	Alfred Hitchcock	NR
Risky Business	Paul Brickman	R(language, sexuality)
Road to Perdition	Sam Mendes	R (violence, language)
Rocky	John G. Avildsen	PG
Rudy (1993)	David Anspaugh	PG
Saving Private Ryan (1998)	Steven Spielberg	R (language, violence)
Say Anything	Cameron Crowe	PG-13
Shutter Island	Martin Scorsese	R (violence, language)
Simon Birch (1998)	Mark Steven Johnson	PG
Slumdog Millionaire (2008)	Danny Boyle	R (violence, language)
Smoke Signals	Chris Eyre	PG-13
Spellbound	Jeffrey Blitz	G
Stand By Me	Rob Reiner	R(language)
Star Wars (1977)	George Lucas	PG
Stranger Than Fiction	Marc Forster	PG-13
SuperSize Me	Morgan Spurlock	PG-13
The Avengers	Joss Whedon	PG-13
The Big Lebowski	John Coen	R (language, drug use)
The Birds (1963)	Alfred Hitchcock	NR (violence)
The Breakfast Club (1985)	John Hughes	R (language)
The Color Purple (1985)	Steven Spielberg	PG-13
The Dark Knight (2008)	Christopher Nolan	PG-13
The Dark Knight Rises	Christopher Nolan	PG-13
The Godfather	Francis Ford Coppola	R (violence, language)
The Gods Must Be Crazy (1980)	Jamie Uys	PG
The Green Mile (1999)	Frank Darabont	R (language, violence, mild sexuality)
The Importance of Being Earnest	Oliver Parker	PG
The Incredibles (2004)	Brad Bird	PG
The King's Speech	Tom Hooper	R (some language)
The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)	John Ford	NR
The Matrix (1999)	The Wachowski Brothers	R (sci-fi violence and brief language)
The Prestige (2006)	Christopher Nolan	PG-13
The Princess Bride (1987)	Rob Reiner	PG
The Shawshank Redemption (1994)	Frank Darabont	R (language, violence)
The Shining	Stanley Kubrick	R (violence)
The Silence of the Lambs	Jonathan Demme	R (violence)
The Sixth Sense (1999)	M Night Shyamalan	PG-13
The Truman Show (1998)	Peter Weir	PG
The Usual Suspects	Bryan Singer	R (language, violence)
True Grit	Ethan & Joel Coen	PG-13
Unbreakable (2000)	M Night Shyamalan	PG-13
Unforgiven (1992)	Clint Eastwood	R (language, violence)
Up	Peter Docter	PG
V for Vendetta (2006)	James McTeigue	R (strong violence, some language)
What's Eating Gilbert Grape	Lasse Halstrom	PG-13
Yellow Brick Road	Keith Rondinelli, Matthew Makar	NR

As a class, we may view portions of all these films, keep a viewing log, and discuss film technique and composition. While those listed above have been frequently taught, other more recent films may be included based solely on relevance to course discussion, curriculum content, and student interest. Please indicate on the syllabus signature sheet, giving your child permission to study these and other films in our class. If you would prefer your child not study these films, we can arrange an alternative viewing assignment.

**SIGNATURE SHEET – PLEASE PRINT AND RETURN TO YOUR LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER ASAP.**

**2016-2017 Syllabus Signature Sheet**

We would like to welcome you to the fall semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade World/Multicultural/Contemporary Literature. After reading the syllabus located online at [www.northviewhigh.com](http://www.northviewhigh.com) and this document, both parent and student must sign and date below and submit to us by Wednesday.

By signing and selecting yes below you are also granting permission for your child permission to study the films/clips listed above in our class. If you would prefer your child not study these films, we can arrange an alternative viewing assignment. Please indicate with a circled no.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT STUDENT NAME

Class period \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT PARENT NAME(S)

Film permission: Please circle one.

yes      no

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print legibly.)



## Northview High School 2016-17 Syllabus Signature Sheet

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 25, 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.**