

AMERICAN LITERATURE HONORS

Ms. Wagner

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The Objectives:

- ✓ **Think creatively and critically.** Analyze and interpret what we read, write and say.
- ✓ **Communicate effectively.** Improve grammar, prewriting, drafting, and editing techniques.
- ✓ **Contribute responsibly and respectfully.** Use academic and social language strategies.
- ✓ **Live healthy.** Develop time management, work ethic, and initiative.
- ✓ **Become lifelong adaptive learners.** Enjoy and respect novels, poetry, short stories, plays and the creative process.

The Expectations:

- ✓ **Respect** yourself and others. The classroom is a place where everyone should feel safe and able to participate without fear or abuse of any kind.
- ✓ **Arrive to class on time** and be in your seat when the bell rings. If you must be tardy, enter the room quietly and without disturbing others.
- ✓ **Bring your books, notebook and pens everyday.** Be prepared.
- ✓ **Participate** in classroom activities and assignments. Stay engaged by turning off your cell phone and refraining from texting during class.
- ✓ **Have fun!**

I take the rules of this class and this school very seriously and I would like you to do the same. I want you to feel free to speak your mind; in fact, I encourage it, but not if it is at the expense of one of your classmates or me.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in my class. You will automatically fail any assignment that has been plagiarized, with the possibility of failing the grading period, as well. In addition, dismissal from the Honors program in literature will be strongly considered, and may require a meeting with you, your parent/guardian, counselor, principal and myself. Whether you are familiar with the concept or not, you are strongly encouraged to visit www.plagiarism.org for more information, guidelines, and suggestions.

The Materials:

- ✓ **Computer and access to Google docs** (or similar apparatus) with a constant flow of ink, paper, and memory! (Galileo computer labs are recommended)
- ✓ **8 1/2 by 11 inch** spiral notebook with **200+ pages, and 5 pockets** (5 Star brand is recommended)
- ✓ **Pens** (blue or black ink) and **pencils** with erasers
- ✓ **Highlighters**
- ✓ **Glue stick**

The Literature:

"Self-Reliance," Ralph Waldo Emerson
The Awakening, Kate Chopin
Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller
Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
Various works of Beat Literature
Short stories and poetry, varied authors

The Assignments:

Written Preparation (20%)
Verbal Participation (20%)
Outside Reading Requirement (25%)

Formal and On-Demand Writing (20%)
Vocabulary (10%)
Quizzes (5%)

I expect you to complete every assignment for this class, period! In fact, it will be difficult to pass this class unless you turn in every assignment. Any and all excuses for late work must be cleared with me. I do not accept extra credit.

Your grade will be determined by a standard system:

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

59% = F

The Absence and Tardy Policy:

In order for you to learn, you must be present and on time for class. It is impossible to make up the direct instruction that is covered in the classroom. If you know in advance that you are going to be absent, contact me immediately for outside work. In the event of an unexpected absence on the day of any major assignment, you must email your work to me by 3:10 pm of that school day (wagnera@galileoweb.org). Late work for major assignments **will not** be accepted otherwise! In the case of any absence, you are still responsible for all work covered in class. Copy down the names and contact information of at least two other class members in case you need to inquire about missed work.

If by some chance you are absent or late for class, I expect you to do the following:

Absence

1. Upon returning to school, you must have a written excuse from your parent/guardian.*
2. Your note must be processed by the attendance office, and the readmit slip you are provided in exchange must be signed by me within 3 days.
3. Inquire about all missed work—it is your responsibility.

* See attendance office for a more complete description of school-wide procedures.

Unexcused Absence

Missed assignments can only be made up if absences are excused. **Inevitably, unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade.**

Tardy

1. Enter quietly.
2. Quietly get out your materials and begin to participate.
3. Ask a classmate for any missed information after class.

Please, once you realize that you are going to be late, do not compound the problem by disrupting the class. **Inevitably, excessive tardiness will result in a lowered grade.**

This course requires the in-depth study of challenging works; your organization, regular and punctual attendance, and diligence is required. For your benefit, I am available for outside help during office hours—see me to schedule an appointment. I hope you find this course enlightening and rewarding.

MS. WAGNER'S SYLLABUS AGREEMENTS

CLASS PERIOD: _____ COURSE: _____

NAME (please print): _____

I have read the above syllabus, list of assignments, academic honesty expectations, absence and tardy policy, and the grading policy. In particular, I am aware of the academic honesty expectations, and the absence and tardy policy for the days when major assignments are due. I agree to participate in this class to the best of my abilities and I am aware that office hours will be provided to help me do so.

STUDENT signature/date: _____

Email: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN signature/date: _____

Email: _____

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS....
