

**Dubuque Community School District  
Hempstead High School  
English Department**

*Hempstead is a P.R.I.D.E. School: Prepared; Responsible; Inclusive; Dignified; Empowered*

Course Name: Contemporary Literature  
Course Number: ENG329  
Instructor: Ms. Houselog  
Room: C122  
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Grades: 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>: 1 semester; 1 credit

Description: This one-semester course is designed for students interested in exploring mostly American literature based on challenging contemporary issues, themes and artists. Fiction, non-fiction, plays, film and poetry (including contemporary music lyrics will be studied in-depth. Students will analyze, discuss and find understanding of the challenging issues of our time. Thematic units may include: responsibility, choices and consequences, prejudice, crime, teen-adult relationships, etc.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning and assessment are built primarily on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade-band of the Iowa Core Reading and Listening and Speaking Standards.

**Iowa Core Standards:**

**Standard 1: Reading Strand Literature**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

**Standard 2: Reading Strand Informational Text**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

**Standard 3: Writing**

Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes and audiences.

**Standard 4: Speaking and Listening**

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations and presentations.

**Standard 5: Language**

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

**Evaluation/Assessment:** The student's grade will be comprised of homework, class participation, projects, graded discussions, quizzes, writing assignments, presentations, and tests. Active class participation is what will make daily class sessions interesting and thought provoking. This requires that students not only regularly attend class, but it also requires that students orally communicate in a respectful way in class by asking questions and sharing ideas.

**Content:**

Reading- Short stories, poetry, nonfiction, musical lyrics, novels

Instructional Strategies:

I will use a variety of instructional strategies to help students develop an understanding of the content as well as the ability to apply it in real-world situations. Examples of those strategies include:

Direct Instruction- Lecture, Invited guest speakers, Films  
Indirect Instruction-Decision making, Guided inquiry, Problem solving  
Group Interaction-Open discussions, Fish bowls, Debates  
Individual Study- Papers/Essays, Reading logs, Research

**Resources May Include:**

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

*The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffery Eugenides

*Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel

*Night Shift* by Stephen King

*Boot Camp* by Todd Strasser

*The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold

*Paper Towns* by John Green

Various short stories, poetry, films

Outside Reading books (student choice)

\*Excerpts of films or a film in its entirety might be shown as a comparison of novel

Writing- Character analysis, personal narrative, journaling, poetry, research writing, essays  
Speaking and Listening- Small-group discussion, large-class discussion, fish bowls, presentations  
Language- Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics lessons and practice.

**Academic/Behavioral Expectations:** We will follow the Academic Accountability Policy: 5107. Students are expected to submit assignments on their given due dates. Assignments submitted *after* their due dates will still be accepted; however, a determined amount of points will be deducted for having missed the deadline. Students will be allowed to submit late work throughout the course of each unit. However, late work for each specific unit will no longer be accepted after that unit has closed. If you must be absent, students are responsible for asking about notes, handouts, and all assignments from missed classes. If you have made prior arrangements for an extended deadline, then you are obligated to meet the extended deadline. A zero will be added to the gradebook for each missing assignment until the work has been submitted to the instructor.

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, or demeaning. The instructor has primary responsibility for and control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.

**Student I.D. Badge:** Per District expectation, high school students are expected to wear their student I.D. lanyard while at school at all times. In this classroom, you will be expected to wear your student I.D. Infractions of this expectation will result in one of the following consequences: teacher/student conference, parent contact, and/or office intervention.

**Plagiarism:** Hempstead students are expected to do their own schoolwork. Cheating by looking at another student's schoolwork, copying others' work, copying from other sources or similar cheating is not tolerated. With the advent of the Internet, the availability of information has exploded into a whole

new and exciting realm for our students. The accessibility of documents has also brought with it an increasing concern regarding plagiarism, which is a form of cheating.

All Hempstead teachers are committed to educating our students about plagiarism, helping them understand what plagiarism is—especially through specific instruction in individual courses. We aim to teach students how to accurately quote and document sources as well as how to effectively convert researched information into their own words. Plagiarism is defined by [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) as: “a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own.” Iowa Core Literacy Anchor Standard #8 for College and Career Readiness states that students will: “Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.”

Cheating, including plagiarism, may result in loss of or reduced credit on an assignment, referral to the Assistant Principal office for documentation on the student’s record, and possible loss of class credit and failing grade.

Plagiarism and cheating exist in many forms and to various extents. Some typical examples are noted here:

- \*\* Copying another student’s assignment/artwork/project; note: BOTH parties are engaging in cheating
- \*\* Using another person’s paper/artwork/project/ in its entirety and calling it your own
- \*\* Copying a paper word-for-word (artwork/project) from an internet document or documents
- \*\* Using sentences from another source but replacing a few words
- \*\* Passing off ideas or critiques as your own when they are someone else’s
- \*\* Not putting quotation marks around exact words pulled from another resource
- \*\* Not documenting the source at all, or documenting the wrong source
- \*\* Not citing the sources used (even when paraphrasing and summarizing)

Incidental plagiarism will be addressed by the classroom teacher, and may include loss of credit for the assignment and parent contact. Consequences for blatant plagiarism and repeated acts of incidental plagiarism are listed below. Disciplinary action by Hempstead administration may include loss of class credit and failing grade.

Juniors & Seniors: 1st occurrence: 0% on piece without revision, parent contact, referral to Assistant Principal for documentation purposes; repeated plagiarized pieces 0% without revision and referral to AP Office for possible disciplinary action.

**Instructors responsibilities:**

- Be prepared and organized for class meetings
- Treat all students with courtesy and respect
- Ensure that opportunities to participate are enjoyed equally by all students in the course
- Encourage the skills you will need in order to be successful learners
- Communicate with parents/guardians about the course and its students when necessary
- Explore this course and what it has to offer right along with you

**Student responsibilities:**

- Arrive to class on time
- Refrain from packing up belongings before class ends and lining up at the door
- Cell phones are not allowed during class time (consequences for misuse will be handled on a case by case basis)
- Listen quietly and give full, respectful attention while either instructor or another student is speaking
- When speaking use courteous, respectful language
- You must have an agenda/ I.D. badge in order to leave the classroom
- Respect our environment and surroundings

I understand the rules and regulations to this course. I hereby agree to accept and follow the syllabus.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FYI: Parents and students, please let me know if you have any questions. Please note that an e-mail is the best/quickest way to reach me. If you are unable to e-mail, make sure you leave the best contact number for me to get back to you. Thank you.**