

Dubuque Community School District
Hempstead High School

Course Name: Practical US Literature
(Course #XSM328)
Classroom L003

Teacher: Linda Jegerlehner
Contact Phone: 552-5403; email: *ljegerlehner@dbqschools.org*
Office hours: Period 3 in the Special Ed. Office

Course description: Open to juniors and seniors who have a prerequisite placement based on assessment and instructor recommendation. This course is for students who require special education services as indicated by their Individual Education Plan (IEP). This course is designed to provide the students with a background of influential American writers. Students will read plays, short stories, and poetry by American authors spanning the birth of our nation to modern day America. Various writing assignments will accompany the works included. Strategies will be used to improve student decoding skills, vocabulary, and comprehension skills as determined by the individual IEP.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning, and assessment are built primarily on the 11-12th grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core Reading, and Speaking and Listening Strands.

Iowa Core Standards:

Standard 1: Reading Strand - Literature

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

Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create 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.

Assessment:

Teacher will provide a variety of assessments during the course, including quizzes, small and large group discussions, journal responses, essays, projects and presentations, and semester exams. Assessment will be used to determine learning mastery. Students will reflect on their individual progress as a means of self-assessment. Final assessments for units and semester tests will focus on application of acquired understanding of content. A letter grade will be awarded based on the percentage of total points earned in the class.

Content: (See course outline at the end of this document.)

Reading: short stories, drama, poetry, nonfiction, informational texts, novels

Writing: analysis, narrative, poetry, journaling, research/argumentative writing

Speaking and Listening: pair-share, small-group discussion, large-class discussion, presentations

Language: Grammar, usage, and mechanics mini lessons and practice

Instructional Strategies:

Teacher will provide instruction through

- Lecture/direct instruction
- Modeling
- Directing student research
- Conferencing with individual students
- Small/Large Group discussion/Socratic Circles
- Facilitate student self-assessment

Resources:

Text: American Literature (AGS)

Various novels, short stories, nonfiction pieces, poems, etc. Students will access to computers and the internet.

Academic Expectations:

READING:

Required readings include classical and contemporary literary works from various genres. We will explore both literary and informational texts throughout the semester with the goal of implementing reading strategies that will enable students to improve comprehension and text analysis.

WRITING:

Students will actively participate in effective writing processes. Students will participate in various types of writing workshops and learn to share meaningful feedback with one another. Student writing will focus on original, clear, and creative expression. **The Plagiarism Policy as set forth in the Student Planner will be strictly enforced.**

SPEAKING AND LISTENING:

There will be numerous opportunities for students to engage in conversation—pair-sharing, small group collaboration, large-group student-led discussions. In addition, students will share their learning with peers in both formal and informal settings.

LANGUAGE:

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics (GUM)/Vocabulary:

We will study this area via mini lessons and actual application in our writing assignments.

MAKE-UP WORK:

Work missed for any reason **MUST** be made up. Students are responsible for obtaining any missed assignments or notes. Students who miss one day will have one day to make up missed work. Students who have been absent for more than one day must arrange a make-up schedule with their teacher. **Students absent on the day of a test will take the test the day they return.** Students absent on graded discussion days will need to meet with the teacher after school to hold a discussion on the day that they return or as arranged by the teacher. Students unable to meet per arrangements will receive 0 points for that discussion.

LATE WORK:

Late work typically is not accepted. Students who contact the teacher due to extenuating circumstances might be allowed to turn in one late assignment with point reductions. Work for each unit will not be accepted once a unit has been completed.

ATTENDANCE:

Much of students' learning in this class takes place through discussion; therefore it is very important for students to be in class on time to share what they know and to deepen their own understanding by hearing the views of others. Students who are habitually tardy or absent risk consequences that may involve being dropped from the class. See the student planner for the district attendance policy.

MATERIALS:

Students should have a pen, pencil, designated English spiral or folder with paper, required texts, and their independent novel with them every day.

Grading Plan:

I will follow the grading scale set forth in the student planner. All assignments, including tests, are assigned a point value. The total number of points a student earns over the semester determines his/her grade. Grades are calculated by semester, so students start with zero points at the beginning of each semester.

Food and Drink:

My classroom adheres to the district “Clear and Clear” policy that says food shall only be purchased and eaten in the lunchroom. Students may have water in a clear container to drink in my classroom. Eating is not allowed.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

The classroom must be a place conducive to learning. Students are expected to respect themselves, their classmates, school property, and their teacher. Teacher will address students' inappropriate behavior as necessary and follow school administration policies regarding consequences.

****NOTE REGARDING TECHNOLOGY:** We will utilize computers in this classroom and at times students may use their cell phones to access information. The teacher will tell students when it is okay to use their cell phones. Most of the time, the rule is to turn off and put away all electronics. All ear phones, ear buds, head phones, etc. must also be removed and put away while students are in class unless the teacher has given the student permission to use them.

In this classroom,

- students will be given one warning to put their cell phone in their bag;
- if they are found using them again, they will be instructed to turn the phone over to the teacher and it will be given back at the end of the hour;
- if they refuse to turn the phone over to the teacher, I will ask someone from the office to come and get the phone to keep it until the end of the school day;
- students who have their phone turned into the office more than once within one week will face additional consequences to be determined at that time.

Brief Outline of Basic Rules:

- Wear your ID clearly visible between your neck and waist at all times.
- Be in your seat when the bell rings.
- Put away all electronic devices – including cell phones - unless the teacher gives you permission.
- No food or drink (other than water in a clear container).
- Raise your hand and wait to be called upon.
- Do not interrupt others when they are speaking.
- Do not line up at the door before the bell rings.
- Use academically appropriate language (no swearing!).
- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Put away all other work and participate in the work/discussion/lesson for this class.
- Turn in work on time.
- Get a pass and sign out when leaving the classroom. Sign in again upon returning.
- Do not insult others.
- Do not bully others.