

U.S. Literature

Mr. Michael Fleming/ Room A 211

mfleming@dbqschools.org

Phone: DSHS: 552-5500/ EXT. #5557

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” –Aristotle

We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards.

Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide the students with a background of many influential American writers. Students will read plays, novels, short stories, and poetry by American authors spanning the birth of our nation to modern day America. Students will read Romanticism, Modernism, Post-Modernism, as well as contemporary works. Various writing assignments will accompany the works studies.

Alignment to the Iowa Core: Instruction, learning, and assessment are built primarily on the 11th-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.

Assessments:

- * Study guides
- * Reading and vocabulary quizzes
- * Journal responses
- * Projects and presentations
- * Tests
- * Book/Film reviews
- * Various writing assignments
- * Quizzes/ Unit tests/ Semester exam

Content: Short Stories, Poetry, Novels, Drama, Film, Documentary, Speeches, Biography, Autobiography, Essays, Famous Documents

Instructional Strategies:

- * Small and Large group Discussions
- * Socratic Circles/Debates
- * Projects and Presentations/ Technologically Supported

- * Research
- * Creative Writing
- * Literary Analysis
- * Peer Sharing/Editing

Resources:

Textbook: Literature: The American Experience

Selections include but are not limited to works from the following authors:

Anne Bradstreet, Jonathon Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Abraham Lincoln, Kate Chopin, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, John F. Kennedy

Other selections: *The Crucible: Arthur Miller, The Great Gatsby: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Moby Dick: Herman Melville.*

EXPECTATIONS:

Materials

You will be responsible for bringing the following supplies to class each day: paper, pen and pencil, binder or folder, book, agenda, and completed homework.

Make-up Work

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your make-up work. Please see me before class for any handouts / assignments you may have missed. You may not do make up work for past units unless there are extenuating circumstances which you have cleared with me. (This may change dependent on both the length of your absence and the reason you have been out of school.)

Tardy Policy

Please be in your desk before the bell rings. See your agenda for the school tardy policy. This will be strictly enforced.

Grading Scale:

A 93-100% B 83-86% C 73-77% D 63-66%

A- 90-92% B- 80-82% C- 70-72% D- 60-62%

B+ 87-89% C+ 77-79% D+ 67-69% F 59%

Communication: E-Mail: mfleming@dbqschools.org

Phone: 552-5500 ext. 5557

Available for help: Before or after school upon appointment