



Mrs. Heidesch

Room: D-160

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Prep Hour: 3rd

U.S. Literature

“Literature does not exist in a vacuum. Writers as such have a definite social function exactly proportional to their ability as writers.” –Ezra Pound

“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 studied.

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:

- Guided Reading Questions
- Reading and Vocabulary Quizzes
- Formal & Creative Writing Assignments
- Projects and Presentations
- Quizzes/ Unit Tests/ Semester Exam

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

Instructional Strategies:

- Projects and Presentations/Technologically Supported
- Research
- Creative Writing
- Literary Analysis
- Peer Sharing/Editing
- Discussions

Textbook:

Chin, Beverly Ann. *Glencoe Literature: The Readers' Choice*. New York, NY: Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2002. Print.

Supplemental Texts: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

Classroom Conduct and Behavior Expectations:

RESPECT

- **Classroom:** Respect the property of the school and the property of others by leaving things alone that do not belong to you. Do not write on desks, litter the floor, pick at bulletin boards, etc.
- **Classmates:** Treat your classmates as you would expect to be treated. I will **NOT** tolerate hurtful and insensitive remarks directed towards others. During class discussions and writer's workshops, please be respectful of the ideas and opinions of others.
- **Teachers:** I refuse to talk over you. When I am talking, please refrain from any conversation. I will respect you when you are speaking, so please, respect me enough to listen when I am speaking.

Attendance: It is very difficult for you to learn in this class if you are not here. Be in class, on time, every day. I keep accurate attendance records and will follow the school's attendance policy (see student handbook).

Tardies: We will start class when the bell rings, not two minutes after. Be in your seat and ready to learn. According to the school's tardy policy, each tardy after three will be considered an unexcused absence (see student handbook).

Hallway Privileges: If you need to leave the room for any reason, you must sign out with your student agenda. Abuse of this rule will result in loss of freedom to leave the classroom.

Food and Beverages: With the exception of di-hydrogen monoxide, absolutely **NO** food or beverages of any kind will be allowed in the classroom (see student handbook).

Personal Audio Equipment, Pagers, Headsets, Cell Phones, etc: Prohibited in class. After one verbal warning to place electronics away, electronic devices/cell phones will be confiscated.

Other: NO BAGS OR PURSES ON DESKS.

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%