

U.S. Foundations of Literature

Aaron Burbach & Macheal Heidesch Room D165

Course Description: Foundations in Literature is a survey course of primarily American authors who write for a young adult audience. The course is comprised of short stories, drama, excerpts from novels and biographies, and articles from periodicals and newspapers. Additional time is planned for each piece of literature than in the U.S. Literature course. Reading strategies are used extensively in this course to help students improve their reading skills.

COMMENT: This course may not fulfill admission requirements for four-year Institutions.

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:

- Graphic Organizers
- Reading and comprehension 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, and Essays

Instructional Strategies:

- Small and Large group Discussions
- Socratic Circles/Debates
- Projects and Presentations/Technologically Supported
- Research
- Creative Writing
- Literary Analysis
- Peer Sharing/Editing

Resources:

Selections may include, but are not limited to, works from the following texts: *The Body*, *Ishmael*, *The Lottery*, *The Pearl*, *Cut*, *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, Other selections: *Stand By Me (Film)*, *Into the Wild (Film)*, *The Telltale Heart (Short Film)*, and *The Lottery (Short Film)*

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. Storage space will be provided for binders and novels.

Late Work

Late work will be worth half credit. For example, if an assignment is worth ten points, you will not be able to earn any more than five points. It is possible to earn less than half credit for a late assignment if the work is of poor quality.

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.)*

Communication

Assignments and daily expectations will be communicated in class as well as through, Remind 101, a class text-messaging system. Students will be provided with access to this system early in the semester. Communication is vital; any problem can be solved if the proper lines of communication are kept open.

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%

Extra credit is not and will not be available under any circumstances. We do not participate in, "end of the semester scramble", you will not be provided with additional opportunities at the end of the semester if you chose not to take advantage of the opportunities during the semester.

Communication: E-Mail: aburbach@dbqschools.org

E-Mail: mheidesch@dbqschools.org

Phone: 552-5500 ext. 5561/5653

Available for help: *Before or after school 3rd hour prep, upon appointment*

"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.