

**American Literature  
Course Guidelines and Syllabus   
Spring 2019**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** American Literature/Composition is a college prep class that surveys American works and authors and will provide writing experiences related to informational, narrative, and argument styles of writing. Grammar, vocabulary development, listening, speaking, and research will also be included.

**GRADING:** CCSD Grading Scale

90-100 A 80-89 B 74-79 C 70-73 D 69 and Below F

**Grading Procedures/ Percentages**

Reading Literature & Informational Texts 25%

Writing 25%

Speaking & Listening 15%

Language 15%

EOC Georgia Milestone/Final Exam 20%

Non-standards based grades/ Life Skills 0% (Record of learning application & conduct grade)

*\*Papers will be graded and returned on average in a 2-week turnaround. Some assignments may be returned earlier or later than this time frame\**

**Final Exams/ End of Course Georgia Milestone**

A comprehensive final exam will not be given at the end of the course to assess mastery of the course; instead there will be a final Unit test during final exam week. There is a State-Mandated End-of-Course Georgia Milestone Test in American Literature that counts 20% of the final course grade. End-of-Course test scores are also posted on transcripts.

**Supplies*:***

* *\*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (*novel)*
* *\*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls *(memoir)*
* *Post-it notes*
* *Lined paper*
* *Pens/ Highlighters* ***(NO RED PENS!!!)***
* *Composition Book or Spiral Bound or Binder*
* *Computer access*
* Independent Reading Books (3 books)

**Textbooks**

**SpringBoard: *English Language Arts Grade 11***(Each student will receive a consumable textbook. This book can NOT be replaced)

**Tentative Semester Plan**

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| --- | --- |
| **Unit: Power of Persuasion**  **Anchor Text: *The Crucible,* Arthur Miller** | 5 weeks |
| **Unit: The Pursuit of Happiness (Transcendentalism)**  Anchor Texts: film study comparisons *Dead Poets’ Society & The Pursuit of Happyness* | 3 weeks |
| **Unit: The American Dream**  Anchor Text: \**The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls  *A Raisin in the Sun,* Lorraine Hansberry | 3.5 weeks |
| **Unit: An American Journey**  Anchor Text: \**Their Eyes Were Watching God,* Zora Neale Hurston *(you need to obtain a copy of this novel)* | 4 weeks |
| **Final Exam Review & Exam** | .5 week |

\*Students are responsible for purchasing this book.

**MAKE-UP WORK**   
In keeping with school policy, all make-up work must be completed **within one week of the due date** of the assignment for an **excused** absence for full credit. It is **your** responsibility as a student to maintain make-up work or any information discussed in class while absent. If you are absent, look on the class blog, ([www.msdickenson.weebly.com](http://www.msdickenson.weebly.com)) for the information you missed. If you missed notes while you were gone, get that information from one of your classmates or check the blog; sometimes notes appear there. If you still have questions, ask the teacher before or after class if there is time or during extra-helps hours. Bottom line: **it is your responsibility**. Long-term assignments or upcoming tests are expected to be completed on time even if absent the day prior.

***Grades will be placed as a zero until any outstanding work is made up.*** *It must be done in a timely manner – for me, this means within a week of your absence. If work is not made-up within the given time frame,* ***the grade of zero will remain as the final grade for that assignment. You must come in before or after school to make up a quiz or test - class time is rarely available to make-up work.***

**LATE-WORK:**   
The purpose of assignments is to aid students in acquiring the necessary skills of the class. With this being said, students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. However, students will be allowed to turn in any graded assignment throughout the subsequent unit. **NO LATE HOMEWORK IS ACCEPTED (That’s anything worth 10 points or less)**. If a student misses a homework assignment due to an excused absence, he/she will be permitted to make-up the assignment or will be omitted from it all together. Late major assessments (That’s anything worth more than 10 points) will be accepted but for a penalty of 10% off per day it is late. **Again**, **no late work for a unit will be accepted after the unit test has been administered.**

**Tutoring:**Tutoring will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings or by appointment. If students wish to take advantage of the tutoring times, please communicate this desire to the teacher, so classroom arrangements can be made in advance.

**Personal Electronic Devices Policy (Please see Student Handbook for more details)**

Electronic devices are not permitted UNLESS students have been given direct permission by the classroom teacher. Some situations and learning activities will be appropriate for use of electronic devices; others will not. The teacher will determine when it is appropriate to use cell phones, i-pods, e-readers, or other devices. Basic rules:

* Phone calls and/or texting are **NEVER** permitted in the classroom **without direct permission from a teacher.**
* Using a PED to take pictures or record is **NEVER** permitted in the classroom without direct permission from a teacher.
* **PEDs are NEVER permitted to be out during a testing environment**. If a PED is out during a testing situation, it will automatically be assumed that the student is cheating.
* If listening to music while working, ear pieces must be worn, and the volume must be low enough so another person cannot hear it. Sharing ear pieces is not permitted.
* Cell phones volumes should be on vibrate/silent throughout the class period to avoid distractions

**If at any time the teacher believes a student is abusing the privilege of using electronic devices, the privilege will be taken away and the student will receive an administrative referral**.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

The faculty and students at Hillgrove are a community of people working together. In order to accomplish our goals, we must treat each other with mutual respect and adhere to established expectations of behavior.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

* Once the bell rings, be in the classroom and take out necessary materials for class and start reviewing/working on the warm-up.
* All homework and other assignments (if due) are due by the start of the warm-up. The teacher will give a final call for work to remind students. Any work turned in after the final call is considered late and graded accordingly or at the teacher’s discretion.
* Bathroom/Hall Passes**: No passes are given within the first or last 15 minutes of class #DEADTIME.** You must use the Hillgrove pass to leave the room. Fill it out in pen, and have the teacher sign. **If your requests for a pass become excessive, your privilege may be limited.**
* **Class is not dismissed by the bell**. Students are to remain in their seats until the teacher dismisses them.

**GENERAL CLASS BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to be in class every day, arrive on time, and remain attentive, respectful, and on task throughout the entire class period.

* Be on time, on task & prepared to learn **EVERYDAY.** Failure to do so will result in a lower conduct grade. Necessary materials include books, notebooks, writing utensils, assignments, etc.
* Personal electronics for **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY and only during NON-INSTRUCTIONAL times.**
* **BE RESPONSIBLE** for your own learning.
* **RESPECT the teacher, the classroom, other students, and**
* **No DISTRACTING Food or Drink** – Drinks must have lids and your area must remain clean of food or drink debris. This privilege will be revoked if cleanliness becomes an issue.

**\*Consequences** for breaking any of the above rules:

1) A verbal warning by the teacher

2) A telephone call to the parents or guardian of the student in violation of classroom rules

3) Morning or afternoon detention – it will be served within the week of the offense

4) Referral to administration

**\*If misconduct is an extreme offense, consequence one, two, and/or three from above may be by-passed.**

**HONOR CODE/CHEATING:**

Cheating is not acceptable in any academic setting. Plagiarism is the same as cheating!

If a student is discovered cheating, the following consequences may occur:

1. Assignment of a zero for that grade
2. Student/teacher conference
3. Parent Notification
4. Possible misconduct form to be filed in student’s disciplinary file (depends on severity of the case)

**Class Blog,Turnitin.com, USAtestprep & Remind 101**

A classroom blog is available for both the student and parent to have as a tool in keeping up with classroom assignments and activities. The blog is updated each day with the daily agenda, including printable handouts, notes (when possible), and assignments. If a student misses class or has a question regarding an assignment or activity in class, this is the first place to check before coming to the teacher. You may access the blog by clicking the website link next to Amanda Dickenson under the English Department heading on the Hillgrove High School website. From here you will access Ms. Dickenson’s blog ([www.msdickenson.weebly.com](http://www.msdickenson.weebly.com))

**Turnitin.com**

You will submit major written assignments to turnitin for grading purposes and to check the authenticity of your writing.

Turnitin.com Class ID\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enrollment Password: **rbell**

**USATestprep**

We will use USA Test Prep as a resource to address the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Students will be assigned standards based assignments, tests, quizzes for extra practice and as graded assignments.

USATestprep Account ID: **hillgrovega**  (you will join your respective class once you login/set up an account)

**Remind**

Remind (formerly Remind101) is a free, safe, and simple way for teachers to communicate with students and parents. Send updates, questions, and more to any device—students and parents can receive notifications by text message, on the app, on the web, and by email.

Class Remind Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO CLASS NO LATER THAN Tuesday January 15, 2019**

***By signing this I acknowledge that I have read and understand the syllabus for American Literature class.***

Student Name (Please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardians,**

Please take a moment to complete the information below. Should you want to contact me please do not hesitate to **send an email** to [Amanda.Dickenson@cobbk12.org](mailto:Amanda.Dickenson@cobbk12.org) as this is the best method for communication and a timely response. I look forward to working with both you and your student to have a successful semester!

**IMPORTANT for PARENTS:** *Parents, please answer the questions below.*

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**Does your student have consistent access to a computer with a word processor? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Does your student have consistent access to the internet? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Primary Contact** and relationship with student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which would be the preferred way for me to contact you?

\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email

Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact** (if applicable) and relationship with student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which would be the preferred way for me to contact you?

\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email

Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any other information about your child you wish to share:

***\*\* Please print legibly as this will be my primary means of communication. \*\****