

English 11: American Literature

Class Contract (2021-2022):

East Brunswick Technical High School

Instructor: Mrs. Solomon – Room AC 102 Email: solomonl@mcvts.net

Mrs. Bertram Email: BertramJ@mcvts.net

Google Classroom Code: bji5uzw

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome! This will be an exciting year in which you will be challenged to become better writers, readers, communicators and thinkers! Our focus will be on American Literature, with an emphasis on the language arts skills needed to succeed in college, careers and beyond.

Textbooks: *The American Experience*; vocabulary and grammar workbooks; and a variety of short stories, plays, poems and novels.

II. LITERATURE UNITS

(Selections may change at the discretion of the teacher.)

Unit 1 – Introduction to American Literature

- Native American literature (myths/poetry/historic documents)
- “What is an American?” by Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crevecoeur (essay)
 - “Ain’t I a Woman?” by Sojourner Truth (speech)
- “I Hear America Singing” / “I Too” by Walt Whitman and Langston Hughes (poems)

Unit 2 – Taking a Stand: Shaping the Nation

- Excerpt from April Morning by Howard Fast (fiction)
- “The Declaration of Independence” (primary source document)
- “The Gettysburg Address” by Abraham Lincoln (speech)
- “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr. (speech)
- A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry (play)

Unit 3 – Adventure & Romanticism (Nineteenth Century Literature)

- “Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson (non-fiction)
- “Walden” by Henry David Thoreau (non-fiction)
- Stories of the Fantastic: Edgar Allan Poe; Nathaniel Hawthorne; Stephen Vincent Benet • Poetry (Emily Dickenson; Robert Frost)

Unit 4 – Contemporary Conflicts (1900-Present)

- The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger (novel)
- “Hiroshima” by John Hersey (non-fiction)
- “Ambush” by Tim O’Brien (short story)
- “Inauguration Speech” by John F. Kennedy Jr.

III. GRADING POLICY

CW/HW Assignments & Participation	50%
Tests/Essays/Large Projects	30%
Quizzes* & Small projects	20%

**Please note that pop quizzes are given in this class and that these can not be made up. (To allow students to make-up pop quizzes would contradict the purpose of these quizzes-- to make sure that students are paying full attention during class and that they are not consulting with other students after a pop quiz to find out what questions were on it.) In recognition of the reality that students are sometimes absent, each student may miss 1 quiz per marking period without a grade penalty. For students who do not miss a quiz due to absence, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of each marking period.*

IV. SUPPLIES & MATERIALS

1 – **Required:** Computer, Chromebook or cell phone with Internet access (to be used both at home and in the classroom). If you do not have an electronic device and/or Internet access, please notify your guidance counselor so that you can obtain what you need.

2 – **Required:** A school email address (@mcvts.net). Any messages to me must be sent through your school email, not through your personal email. I will not open emails from students' personal email addresses.

3 – **Required:** An account in our Google Classroom. All assignments posted in the Google Classroom must be submitted in the Google Classroom. Do not email assignments to me.

4 – **Required:** Spiral notebook & folder OR a binder (at least 8"x10" in size). Although assignments will be posted online and submitted online, you will use your notebook to take notes and to practice the skills that are being taught during class sessions. Additionally, it is helpful to print out hard copies of handouts that are posted in the Google Classroom and store them in a binder so that you can refer to them when you don't have Internet access.

5 - **Required:** Two (2) Sharpened pencils and two (2) dark blue or black pens.

6 - **Optional:** A memory stick to save work when the Internet is down. (Not required but highly recommended.)

V. **RULES OF CONDUCT:** As this is a vocational school, you are expected to practice using the same professional skills that are necessary to succeed in the workplace. You might not be friends with everyone, but you are expected to be civil and respectful to both teachers and students. Disruptive behavior or offensive comments will result in any or all of the following: an individual conference with me (your teacher); a phone call or email to parent/guardian; a discipline referral sent to the Assistant Principal; and other consequences outlined in the Student Handbook (link below).

<https://www.ebnet.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=682&dataid=21093&FileName=EBHS%20Student%20Handbook%202021-2022.pdf>

VI. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

At the beginning of the period

1. Enter the room calmly and with a positive attitude. 📱
2. Sit in your assigned seat before the bell rings so that you are not marked late.
3. Electronic devices are to be used for academic purposes only.
4. Begin your Do Now assignment by the time that the late bell rings.

During the lesson

6. Listen carefully to instructions the first time they are given so that you know what to do and don't have to interrupt the lesson by asking the teacher to repeat them.
7. Use good manners and polite language.
8. Do your own work. Students who copy other people's work or allow them to copy their work will receive a zero for the plagiarized assignment**

At the end of the period

9. Help straighten the rows and clean up trash (even if it isn't "yours").
10. Stay in your seat until the bell rings. DO NOT line up at the door. It is a health and safety hazard.

****PLAGIARISM POLICY:** If you copy someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to the original author, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying and pasting information from a website
- Copying information word-for-word from a book
- Submitting a paper from an essay service or agency
- Submitting a paper written by another person (even though he/she allowed you to use it)
- Copying an assignment from another student

VII. GOOGLE CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- 1) In the event that we meet online, log into the Google Meet on time. Otherwise you will be marked late (or absent if you don't log in at all).
- 2) Electronic devices are to be used for academic purposes only. No chatting, posting on social media, etc. during class meetings.
- 3) Participate: Online students will be called on during class. Be prepared to contribute.
- 4) Use Proper Writing Style: Whether you are working on an assignment or participating in an online chat, this is a requirement! Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected in all academic writing. Use MLA style as well.
- 5) Be courteous. A virtual classroom is a professional environment. You may not necessarily be friends with everyone, but you are expected to be polite to all.

VIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire Drill Procedure: Quietly leave the classroom and turn RIGHT. Make another RIGHT turn at the end of the hallway and exit through the back of the building. Walk to the field, and stay together as a class.

Non-fire evacuation: Follow fire drill instructions, but walk down the hill of the field (and possibly even further away depending on the situation)

Code Red Lockdown Procedure (or any other lockdowns): Move to the back of the classroom and sit on the floor. Remain calm and do not talk. The door will be locked, and the lights will be turned off. Do not return to your seats until two administrators state their names and tell us that everything is “all clear” three times.

Code Blue: Medical emergency. Stay in classroom to keep the hallways clear.

Shelter-in-Place: Community emergency. Stay in the building to keep safe.