**Honors American Literature 2013-14**

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**Course Content:** Honors American Literature is a course which focuses on the study of American Literature. Students will be expected to expand their factual knowledge of both literature and history while also developing their analytical thinking skills. The course will be presented in a chronological manner, allowing students to make connections between literature and American history, beginning from European Discovery and continuing through current times.

**Grades and Grading Scale:**

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| Honors American Literature |
| Grading Scale  87-100 = A  74-86 = B  61-73 = C  48-60 = D  0-47= F  · **Categories Weighted**: Homework 20%, Quizzes 10%, Exams 20%, Formative Assessed Writing 10%, Summative Assessed Writing 40%.  · Assignments scored on a 0-4 scale  · Scores on larger or final assessments multiplied by a factor greater than one. |

Grades are based on your performance on essays and objective tests, presentations, journals, and various other assignments. Grades are posted and updated when possible. Questions concerning grades will be welcomed before school or after school, but not during class activities.

**Academic Integrity**: Unless directly specified, all work in this class is expected to be your own, and not copied from a classmate or the internet. Any work that has been plagiarized will receive an automatic score of 0. You will receive more information on this in class, and a more detailed statement is available online.

**Attendance:** It is always an advantage to attend class. Students who miss class also miss important instructional activities that cannot be adequately attained in other ways. As a college-level class, the discussions, questions, and interactions that take place cannot be captured by written notes. Please evaluate carefully if your absence from this class is absolutely essential.

**Homework and Make Up Work:** After an *excused* absence, it is your responsibility to determine what make-up work you will need to complete. You should have your make up work completed no later than one week from your return to class, unless otherwise agreed upon with your teachers. Your homework will be posted online, and it is recommended that you stay up to date on your reading so that you are prepared for discussions when you return. *Unexcused* absences bear a stiff penalty; work missed on those days *cannot* be submitted for credit. You should familiarize yourself with the information on the website:

[**http://www.welovelit.weebly.com**](http://www.welovelit.weebly.com/)

**or**

[**http://www.mrjmeza.weebly.com**](http://www.mrjmeza.weebly.com/)

**Late Work: Do not expect to turn in late work and receive credit.** However, please communicate with your teacher(s) if you are having difficulty meeting a deadline, preferably before that deadline passes.We want to be understanding of your business while still setting an example that college courses rarely accept late work.

**Classroom Expectations:** As a college level course, this class demands your undivided attention in order for you to find success. In your best interest, items or activities that will cause you to lose your focus, such as cell phones, music, notes to friends, other homework assignments, etc. will not be permitted. Because of the large number of students in your class, be in your seat when the bell rings so that we can take attendance and get started immediately. Additionally, please come to class ready to learn, eager to discuss, and willing to think.If as a student you have specific needs to insure your success (IEP, 504, TAG…) please make sure that you discuss them with your teachers as soon as they arise. As the student, it is your job to make sure that we know how to best meet your needs. The official TAG statement is available on the next page.

**Objectives**: Students are expected to review the posted daily objectives at the beginning of class and again at the end of class to check for understanding. They should also be recorded as part of your note taking.

**About the Literature:** In this class, you will have an opportunity to read and analyze some of the most revered pieces of American writing. Many of these texts are included in your Prentice Hall textbook, but occasionally you will be checking out other novels and plays as supplementary texts. Unless told otherwise, bring your textbook to class each day, along with any novel that we may be working with at that time. Please bear in mind that the literature that we are reading as part of this class is in its original form, and has not been edited or censored. Some of the texts, such as *Huckleberry Finn*, may present challenging topics, or use language that may be considered offensive. It is important to understand that you will need to approach these texts with the maturity that is expected of college bound students. Please talk to me if you feel that this may present you with an undue about of stress and discomfort. (Also note that this disclaimer probably makes things sound worse that they are.)

**►Assignment**: Please turn in a piece of paper with your signature and that of your parent/guardian that will serve as an indication that you have read the course syllabus, reviewed the websites, and understand the policies.◄

TAG Considerations

In each subject/course students will be pre-assessed on the knowledge and skills that will be learned in the subject/course. The purpose of this pre-assessment is to find out what students already know and are able to do to avoid repetition and to give the student access to advanced and/or accelerated content.

Formal or informal pre-assessments may include end of chapter/unit tests, student input and self-evaluation, placement test, specific teacher observational data, lab demonstration or test, work samples, fist of five, thumbs up/thumbs down, or other forms of pre-assessment. Below is a list of differentiation strategies that may be used.

**Differentiation Strategies**

**Differentiation:**

Enrichment Multiple Intelligences

Acceleration Compacting Learning Styles

Independent Study/Project Tiered Assignments Critical Thinking

Assignment Modification Flexible Grouping

Cluster Grouping Contracting

**Notes:**