**American Literature**

**Mrs. DiCarlo**

**dicarlo@damien-hs.edu**

**Philosophy and Expectations:**

I believe that the amount of *effort* a student puts into a class will be clearly reflected in the grade he *earns*. I do not assign grades, I simply calculate them so that they are a mirror to students of how much effort, studying, and work was put into any given assignment or assessment. With a *minimum* amount of effort, any students can receive a C- in this course. However, going above and beyond this minimum effort should be the goal of all academic endeavors (even if literature is not a student’s “strong subject”).

I aim for my class to reach various types of students and their learning styles and abilities. I do not rely heavily on any one aspect of teaching. I think it is very important for student to ask questions and seek out answers, being responsible for their own learning. I do not lecture on a daily basis, but I do think that regular discussion of texts is important. This discussion cannot happen, however, if students do not complete readings and participate in given activities and assignments. Students need to trust that all work given has a purpose- I do not give busy work. Literature is meant to be studied and analyzed so that we may learn from it; each student must be willing to put in work in order to extract some personal and/or societal purpose for the text.

You should expect that I will:

* Provide meaningful and thought provoking lessons and discussions every day, presented in various formats.
* Give students various opportunities to prove what they have learned over the course of the unit.
* Update grades regularly and post assignments and other information on Moodle on a weekly basis.
* Give students opportunities to ask questions and seek extra help. I can be contacted via email, as well as be found in my classroom every day from 2:30-3:00 pm. If this time do not work, please contact me and we can arrange to make an appointment.
* Be available for parents to express concerns or questions which may arise over the course of the semester.

I expect that students:

* Respect each other and the teacher, whether in group discussion or simply in the way one person speaks to another in casual conversation
* Come to class prepared every day, having done the reading, homework, or whatever has been required for the success of the class period. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask for your work, AFTER you have checked Moodle.
* Bring texts and other materials (paper, pens, highlighters, etc.) everyday so that they have the necessary tools at hand to succeed.
* Use electronics responsibly and appropriately in the classroom. There are times when students will be able to use phones, laptops, and other devices, and times when use of these electronics will be prohibited. When the use of these devices becomes a distraction or hindrance to the learning of any student in the class, the device will no longer be permitted.
* Communicate regularly with me regarding sports, or other activities/needs which may detract from the class time/home work/ reading time.
* Give a full effort every day. With this being said, I understand that *some* days are harder than others because each individual faces personal circumstances which effect their school day. I will do my best to be sensitive to this and to make modifications when necessary.

**Course work**

Throughout the course of the year, you will learn about American literature through reading novels and other texts which reflect various literary movements. You will be assessed through multiple medians, including tests, quizzes, and projects, which will all show to me that you understand the content and themes of the literature being read. Most of the reading will be done independently for homework, so be prepared to ask and answer questions in class. You will also be required to complete a research paper in which you focus on an American Author from the 20th Century. Furthermore, you will regularly be asked to consider a quote or question and complete a journal in which you express your thoughts, feelings, and opinions about the prompt.

**Moodle and Remind 101**

I use Moodle to post all assignments and the weekly schedule. Make sure you check it weekly. Your enrollment key is the period you are in, e.g. period1. I also use Remind 101 to send you texts to remind you of important information. To join the class, please pay attention to class instructions or check moodle.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty, or plagiarism, is defined as the act of using another person’s words or ideas without giving credit to that person (Merriam-Webster, 10thedition). This class will focus heavily on writing. If you plagiarize an assignment, you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment, your parents will contacted, the Dean of Curriculum will be notified and you will serve detention. If you plagiarize a second assignment, per school rules, you will receive an F for the semester. Copying homework assignments is plagiarism. Any plagiarized assignment cannot be made up, and I will not give a make-up assignment.

**Makeup/Late work policy:**

* If you are absent, you have as many days as you were absent to turn in assignments, if you don’t turn in the assignment by that date, it is late. It is your responsibility to keep track of your assignments via Moodle. Late homework will be accepted up to the day of a unit exam for half credit. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check Moodle for the day’s work. I will not remind you or track you down. ***ALL LATE WORK IS PARTIAL CREDIT (60%).***
* If your absence is unexcused for more than 2 days, per the handbook, you will receive a zero for the assignment and not be allowed to make it up.
* If you miss a previously announced test or quiz, you are required to make it up the day you return – you will not be given extra time.
* All essays are announced in advance and will be turned in online. There will be no extensions – plan ahead and expect the unexpected – failure to turn them in means they are late and are only worth half credit. Since essays often mark the end of a unit, I will only accept late essays 3 days after they are due.
* ***EXTRA CREDIT***: I do not give a large amount of extra credit. Extra credit assignments include going to see the school play and writing a review/reflection. Student will need to show proof of attendance and submit the written portion of the assignment within a week of seeing the play. This extra credit assignment is worth 10 points and will be put into the foundational work category. I do not give any other extra credit assignments.

**Tutoring:**

I am available for tutoring Monday-Friday after school at 2:30 pm (for additional help, questions, or makeup tests). I will also make myself available after school or at lunch if you make arraignments with me ahead of time.

**Technology**

* Chromebooks are mandatory for this class. You must bring your Chromebook to class daily. It must be charged and ready for you to do work. If you do not bring your Chromebook to class and an assignment is due, you will not be allowed to make it up. Be prepared. Your Chromebook is a tool for completing work; if you play games, listen to music, or visit websites that are not related to the class, I will give you a zero for the assignment we are working on, and you will not be allowed to make it up.
* Cell phones are not permitted for any reason in class. They will be collected at the beginning of the period in an attendance folder. If you fail to turn in your phone or attempt to use it in class, you will be marked absent, I will confiscate it for the day (you can pick it up after 7th period), and you will serve detention.

**Grading breakdown:**

1. **Test/Quizzes (35% of overall grade):** Test and quizzes consist of unit tests, vocabulary quizzes, and quizzes on stories, poems, rhetoric, and writing breakdowns.
2. **Essays/Projects (25% of overall grade)**: Essays consist of expository, reflective, descriptive, and research writing assignments. Essays will be written both in class and at home during the year. Projects will revolve around readings done in and out of class. Some projects may be digital.
3. **Foundational work: (25% of overall grade):** Foundational work will include homework, classwork, and participation (including bringing your Chromebook).
4. **Semester Final (15% of overall grade):** The final will cover **all** of the material that we have gone over during the semester. It will consist of various question formats.

**Grading Scale**

90-100 =A

80-89 = B

70-79= C

60-69= D

59 >= F

**Grading Policy:**

Students and parents have access to the grades through Aries, which is updated on a weekly basis. **If an activity or assignment is missed, students may make it up, but I do not give replacement assignments**. Students who are absent should always refer to Moodle to see what was covered in class during their absence.

**Classroom rules:**

1. **RESPECT is expected**. Treat others the way you want to be treated. If you disrespect me or another classmate, you will face disciplinary action.
2. **Be in dress code**. As a member of the Deans office, I expect my students to lead by example. You will receive detention for showing up to my class out of dress code (including grooming), and it will be noted in your Aeries account, and your class Dean will be notified. Uniform checks will happen daily.
3. **Be prepared and on time.** Come to class with homework, class materials, Chromebook, and texts and be ready to work. Do not be tardy! If you habitually come to class unprepared, you will lose foundational work credit, and you are subject to disciplinary action.
4. **NO cellphones, iPods, or video games in class**. NO EXCEPTIONS!
5. **No food or drinks are allowed in class.** You may bring water to class. If you bring food into my class, I will make you throw it away and then serve a detention.
6. **Bathroom breaks.** Leaving class is a privilege; if you abuse this privilege, such as visiting other classrooms or attempting to buy food, you will not be allowed out of class for the remainder of the year.
7. **All rules listed in the Damien Parent-Student handbook**

**If any of the above rules are violated:**

1st occurrence: Verbal Warning, or based or the offense, detention

2nd occurrence: 1 Hour detention with me and parents are notified

3rd occurrence: Student will receive a Saturday detention

All rule violations will be noted in your Aeries account

**Texts and materials**

1. *Norton Introduction to Literature*, Portable 11th Edition
2. *The Bedford Handbook*. 9th Edition. Diana Hacker, Nancy Sommers
3. College-ruled spiral AND perforated notebook
4. Moodle/Aeries login
5. Chromebook
6. Pens, pencil, paper, whiteout, highlighters, etc. daily
7. **Novels for the year – please purchase paperbacks; do not get digital versions**

**Tentative Semester Novels- subject to change**

**Fall Semester**

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

**Spring Semester**

*The Great Gatsby* by F. S. Fitzgerald

*Fences* by August Wilson

**If you have questions at any time, the best way to contact me is via email dicarlo@damien-hs.edu**

**American Literature Syllabus Agreement**

**Due: Friday, Aug. 23rd**

**\*\*\* NOTE TO PARENTS: It is best to contact me by email: dicarlo@damien-hs.edu.**

**I check email daily and will be able to get back to you quickly. \*\*\***

I have read and understand the rules, behavior expectations, and academic requirements of this class. I also understand the detention and referral procedures. I agree to complete the course work designed for the American Literature class and conduct myself appropriately and with integrity.

Student’s Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_