**American Literature Course Syllabus**

Welcome to American Literature! This is going to be an exciting year as we explore the multiple voices and perspectives that make up the tapestry of American literature. Too often the voices we hear from and read about look and sound the same. In this class we will explore the intersections of race, culture, gender, and power, as we read, write, think, and grow together.

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**Room:** 211 (A days) 102 (B days) 201 (Beaver Lodge)

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**Texts:**

Our main texts include, but are not limited to, “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven,” by Sherman Alexie, “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass,” “The Great Gatsby,” by F. Scott Fitzgerald. We will also be reading many short stories and poems to fortify our understanding of these core texts.

**Supplies:**

Be sure to bring a spiral notebook and a pen/pencil to class each day.

**Expectations:**

Show up, do your best, ask for what you need.

**Safe Space Policy:**

A safe space policy helps us create a culture where we respect and support each other. As a member of this classroom we will all:

 Respect peoples’ opinions, beliefs, experiences and differing points of view.

 Respect everyone’s identity and background, including pronouns and names. Do not make assumptions about identity.

 Respect everyone’s physical and emotional boundaries.

 Be responsible for your own actions; be aware that your actions have an effect on others, despite what your intentions may be.

**Absence/tardiness:** It is your responsibility to attend class regularly and on time. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, all missing work must be turned in within two BL periods of the absence.

**Formative/Summative assessment:**

The majority of your assessments this year will be in the form of quizzes, essays, presentations, and group projects. All of your grades will be based on the eleven learning targets for this class. Although some of the assessments you will complete this year will not be “graded,” they will still provide you with vital practice for the summative assessments.

**Grading:**Below are the list of learning targets we will be working on throughout the year. You will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in each target over the course of the class. Each learning target has a rubric, and final grades will be determined using the average score for each target.

* *I can select and apply effective words and syntax*
* *I can use correct conventions (spelling, punctuation, and grammar) in my writing*
* *I can demonstrate comprehension of key ideas and details of grade-level literary and informational texts*
* *I can analyze and evaluate an author’s craft and structure*
* *I can evaluate how two or more works address similar themes or topics*
* *I can initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions*
* *I can present information effectively, using natural and appropriate body language, eye contact, volume, rate of speech, and inflection*
* *I can write an argumentative piece using evidence*
* *I can write an informative/explanatory piece using evidence*
* *I can write narrative pieces*
* *I can use the writing process to improve my writing*

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| **Letter Grade** | **Scale** |
| **A** | **3.4 – 4.0** |
| **B** | **2.7 – 3.4** |
| **C** | **2.0 – 2.7** |
| **D** | **1.6 – 2.0** |
| **F** | **< 1.6** |