**American Literature and Composition Course Syllabus**

**Instructor: J. Keeler Email:** [**jkeeler@atlanta.k12.ga.us**](mailto:jkeeler@atlanta.k12.ga.us) **or keelerjacksonhs@gmail.com**

**Tutorial: Thursdays after school 3:30-5:00pm or by appointment any day**

**Website—**[www.msjkeeler.com](http://www.msjkeeler.com)

**Remind101:** https://www.remind.com/join/keeleram



**Phone: 404-409-1114 (text only)**

**Textbook: https://my.hrw.com**

**Course Overview**

American Literature is a state required course that traces the development of the American identity via literature. There is a focus specifically on rhetoric.

* Grammar: A review of mechanics and grammar will adhere to the Georgia Standards and on an as-needed basis.
* Literature: Students will have to obtain titles from larger selections. These selections will be announced ahead of time. Most are available online for free in a PDF version. They can also be downloaded to a Smartphone. Selections of short stories, poetry, and non-fiction from Houghton Mifflin *Literature*. Literature from the textbook is also available on **https://my.hrw.com**
* Writing: Students will be required to complete multiple essays throughout each unit with support from the teacher and maintain a writing folder that will travel with them to British Literature the following year. Essays will be argument, narrative, and informational.
* Vocabulary: Selected vocabulary appropriate for each unit of study. Vocabulary will be tiered.
* Projects: Projects will integrate technology and provide real-world connections to the texts studied.

**Grading Policy**

My grading policy adheres to the Atlanta Public Schools Standards-Based Grading. Georgia Milestones will count as 20% of your grade second semester.

Your classroom grades will be based on your mastery of standards via written, oral, and electronic assessments.

Class Assignments 15%

Tests 35%

Quizzes 20%

Homework 5%

Projects 25%

**Homework Hotline:** 678-553-3029

**Classroom Expectations**

The following expectations will be elucidated upon the first day of instruction. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in disciplinary action or academic demotion.

1. Be polite.
2. Be prepared.
3. Be punctual.

**Supply List**

1. Access to a Computer, the Internet, and/or a Word Processor After Class Hours
2. All required texts (either electronically, via public library, or via book store)
3. A Flash Drive (You may want to have more than one in case of damage by virus or mysterious disappearance)
4. A One-Subject College-Ruled Notebook. This will remain in class.
5. Loose-Leaf College Ruled Notebook Paper
6. Pens and Pencils
7. A Notebook With Which to Carry All Handouts
8. An Open Mind

**Content Vision for the Year**

Below is a tentative vision of our year. Texts may change.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNIT** | **SEMESTER** | **TOPIC** | **WORKS (not inclusive)--Texts may be added/deleted** |
| 1 | 1 | The Beginnings of American Life  (Puritanism, Rationalism, Patriotism) | Various Native American Mythology  Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible.* (In Textbook)  Selections from the Textbook and/or Provided via Website or Handout. |
| 2 | 1 | The Individual vs. Society  (Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and Gothicism) | Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden.*  Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Complete Short Stories.* or access to his complete stories online  Selections from (but not limited to) the following authors: Longfellow, Bryant, Whittier, Irving, Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne, and Melville. |
| 3 | 2 | Reconstruction and Deconstruction: The American Dream  (New Poetry and Modernism) | Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby.  Selections from (but not limited to) the following authors: Crane, Twain, Dickinson, Pound, Robinson, Wright, Hemingway, Hurston, Faulkner, Hughes, cummings, etc. |
| 4 | 2 | Postmodernism and the Contemporary Problem | Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozie. *Americanah*. |

**American Literature and Composition**

**Ms. Keeler’s Copy (sign and hand in)**

By signing this page and giving it to my instructor, we (student and parent/guardian) are confirming:

1. We understand and agree to follow all of the guidelines, statements and requirements stated in this American Literature and Composition Syllabus.
2. We understand the grading policy and that the grade the student earns in this class is his or her responsibility to earn and to track via Infinite Campus (IC) and progress reports printed from IC.
3. We understand that our class is a learning community. The student will support his or her learning and the learning of his or her classmates by coming to class prepared (with required materials), participating fully, and by completing assignments to the best of his or her ability. We also acknowledge that as we are standards-based, we have the right to better major assignments until we have shown mastery.
4. We commit to giving our best effort throughout the course and will use all provided resources—teachers, classmates, books, electronic sources, and/or community—to become a learned and connected citizen of the world.

Please complete and sign below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Information Needed | Student Name | Parent/Guardian 's Name | Parent/Guardian's Name | In Case of Emergency (Please include a different person in case the parent cannot be reached) |
|  |  |  |  |
| Cell Phone Number |  |  |  |  |
| Work Number |  |  |  |  |
| Home Number |  |  |  |  |
| Email Address |  |  |  |  |

Any additional information about your child that you feel is important for me to know may be noted here.  
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Student's Signature and Date Parent's/Leagal Guardian's Signature and Date