**Syllabus**

This is a literature class, which will include the reading and study of poetry, journals, speeches, short stories, myths, songs and non-fiction by American authors who have been influential. The literature covered consists of the following content and authors: Native American traditions, Exploration and Exploitation (de Vaca, Bradford), Colonization (Bradstreet, Edwards), Individualism (Whitman, Irving, Poe), Conflict and Civil War (Douglass, Bierce), and the Vanishing Frontier (Twain, Cather). Students will be responsible for reading and for responding to this reading through writing and discussion. Some time in class may be given to read, but students will be expected to read on their own time as well.

During class, each student is expected to work hard and give thoughtful insights on the literature and/or history. Students will do a variety of work including projects, writings, and presentations. These will be done individually, with partners, and in small groups. Assessments will be given to check knowledge and comprehension throughout the semester.

**Grading:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Percentage (%)  **Assessments/Tests: 50%**  **Projects/Classwork/Assignments: 40%**  **Participation: 10%** |
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79  Grades will be updated roughly every week. There is **very little extra credit offered**, so getting work done well and on time is critical to your grade. |
| C | 73-76 |
| C- | 70-72 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 63-66 |
| D- | 60-62 |
| F | 0-59 |

**Late Work:**

Late work will be accepted for half credit at most and must be turned in before it is handed back to the class. If a student is gone, it is the student’s responsibility to get needed information, worksheets, assignments, etc. It is also his/her job to turn in assignments from the absence and make-up work within the given time frame. These time frames follow the absence guidelines outlined in your handbook with two days given for every day missed and at the discretion of the teacher.

**Plagiarism:**

Remember to do your own work. Using somebody else’s writing or downloading a report from the internet is plagiarism. Plagiarism teaches you nothing and hurts your grade (plagiarism=0%), so make your writing your own or quote and cite! Also, our school has a computer program that spots plagiarism and will be used if there is any suspicion of plagiarism at any time. Don’t be afraid to ask for help when citing information or when you have questions about how to cite it or if you have to.

**Participation:**

Participation is an important grade. Not only should you come to class prepared, but you should also stay on task and work well in partnerships and small groups. Being respectful in class is critical to this grade. We will need to trust each other when we answer questions and discuss topics in class. Trust is essential as is being present to class. The more you miss, the less you learn. Therefore, try to be present as much as possible. Each week, you will be given a participation grade based off of your participation for the week (up to five points).

The participation grade each day is based on being in class and on time, being prepared for class by having all materials needed, and participating when appropriate. Doing these three things will guarantee receiving all participation points. These points will be given at the end of each week and will be added to your grade accordingly.

**Supplies:**

You will need a notebook, a folder, writing utensils, and a book cover. A flash drive or other mode of saving from a computer will be useful when working in the computer lab and need to save items researched.

**Expectations:**

My job is to help you succeed in this class. I am available for help before school and after school. My prep hour is \_\_\_\_\_ hour, and I may also be available \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If these times do not work in your schedule, do come and talk with me so we can find another time that works for the both of us.

Welcome to American Literature. Get ready to meet some of the great American authors as we delve into numerous stories that portray America and ones way of life.

~ Mrs. Leyendecker

[mleyendecker@paynesville.k12.mn.us](mailto:mleyendecker@paynesville.k12.mn.us)

Get Notices!

Reminders from class can be sent to your email by joining our class:

Send text message

to **(320) 356-8438**

with message **@mleyal**