**Syllabus**

This is a literature class which will include the reading and study of short stories, novels, poetry, articles, song lyrics, and many works by authors who have been influential. The literature covered will relate to central themes found in that unit. The themes will be discussed and worked with in each unit in varying degrees and ways. Themes such as the American dream, war and peace, alienation and isolation, conformity versus individuality, good versus evil, censorship, and other possible themes will be integrated into this semester long class.

During class, each student is expected to work hard and give thoughtful insights on the literature. 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.

At least one unit will focus on a theme chosen by the class or a small group of students. It will be at this time that input is needed to decide on a chosen theme. An investigation of a variety of ideas and messages will take place thereafter and conclude with a culminating project.

**Grading:**

**Assessments/Tests: 40%**

**Projects: 30%**

**Classwork/Assignments: 20%**

**Participation: 10%**

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| --- | --- |
| Grade | Percentage (%) |
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 73-76  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- | 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 best** being work is expected to be done to fully participate in class and discussions. 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. Being present to class is essential. 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 grades accordingly.

**Supplies:**

You will need a notebook, a folder, and writing utensils. A flash drive or other mode of saving from a computer will be useful in the computer lab when needing 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 Thematic Literature. Get ready to experience a new literature class that does not follow a textbook. Be ready to read and discuss with classmates about your understanding of universal ideas and messages and how they are incorporated into the literature.

~ Mrs. Leyendecker

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