**American Literature Syllabus**

**Teachers: Mr. Shea Spencer & Ms. Keisha Freeman (Room 119)**

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**Introduction:** Welcome to American Literature. I look forward to teaching you during the 2018-2019 school year and know it will prove to be valuable and intriguing. This is my fifth year teaching overall, third year at Callaway High School.

**Course Objectives:**

* ***The objectives of this course include developing students’ understanding of the history and cultural progress of our country through literature conveying the perceptions and experiences of primarily American authors.***
* ***Above all else, the main objective of this course is to provide students with the tools to think critically. Analyze literature and its place in our world, relate it to oneself, make it relevant and pertain to each student’s own reality for the sake of creating empathetic, understanding, and contributable members of this world.***

***Note: The focus of this class is depth rather than breadth. While every effort will be made to address all aspects of the syllabus, time constraints, student absences, and unforeseen circumstances may require revisions to the syllabus as the school year unfolds. The learning goals of each unit should be addressed; however, some pieces may be removed or revised.***

**Make-Up Work Policy**

* In accordance with the school policy, students will be given 5 days after an absence to complete missing assignments.
* Students are also allowed the opportunity to attend Intercessions in order to recoup missing work or subpar grades.
* The Final Exam for this course replaces the lowest Major (Class 1) grade.

**Units Covered in American Literature**

***This is a simple outline of the Units covered in American Literature. For more details on each Unit, visit the teacher website listed at the top of the syllabus.***

* **Unit I: Rebels & Rhetoric**
  + Early American Literature, Colonial writings, Multicultural poetry/memoirs
  + Major Work: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
* **Unit II: Individualism & Identity**
  + Romanticism, Naturalism, Transcendentalism, Realism
  + Major Work: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
* **Unit III: Dreams & Disillusionment**
  + Modernism, Feminism, World War II, Roaring Twenties, The American Dream
  + Major Work: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
* **Unit IV: Perseverance & Promise**
  + African American literature, Southern literature, Harlem Renaissance, World War II
  + Major Work: *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

**Assessment Plan**

* There will be 1 Major (Class 1) graded assignment per every 3 Minor (Class 2) graded assignments.
* There are 3 District Common Assessments in this course, 1 for each of the first 3 Units.
* American Literature is an EOC course, therefore, students will be taking the American Literature EOC exam which accounts for 20% of their overall grade.

**Tutoring Hours**

* Tutoring is available on a needs based basis. I do not have set days for tutoring, however, if a student needs tutoring he/she can arrange for there to be so.

**Notebook Expectations**

* Students are required to maintain a notebook specifically for American Literature.
* There will be a bi-weekly notebook check of each student for a grade.
* Within this notebook will be 4 dividers, 1 for each Unit.
* Students will have each of the following subsections for each Unit:
  + Warm-Ups
  + Class II Assignments
  + Notes
  + Graded/Past Work

**Bottom Line:**

**Come to class prepared to *think critically*. If you’re able to do this, you will be successful here and beyond.**