



Instructor: Mrs. N. Leon Guerrero Fitzgerald '96
Location: Room G201 - Gerhardinger Center
Phone: 789-1676/1745
E-mail: nfitzgerald@ndhsguam.com

REQUIRED TEXT

Prentice Hall *Timeless Voices*,
Timeless Themes: The American Experience

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- looseleaf paper
- 1 three-pronged folder with pockets or three-ring binder
- black pen and colored pen

* one box of tissue would be greatly appreciated

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Assignments: **20%**

Quizzes: **20%**

Tests: **25%**

Projects: **25%**

Participation: **10%**

GRADING SYSTEM

93 to 99 – A

85 to 92 – B

77 to 84 – C

70 to 76 – D

50 to 69 – F

Incomplete - I/No Credit - NC

Course Overview

Welcome to Honors American Literature. This course will examine major authors and movements of American literature from pre-colonial through modern times. This course emphasizes critical thinking, research, and creative application of ideas at an advanced pace.

- Honors American Literature students will be **academically prepared** as they will be required to read carefully, think critically, write clearly, and discuss openly. Students will be expected to share their thoughts, ideas, and observations in a respectful and constructive manner. Students will be required to read in and out of class. This course is taught in accordance with the Language Arts Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Media Literacy Curriculum and Standards of the Archdiocese of Agana.
- Students will be **globally concerned** by examining connections between the historical context of selected works and contemporary issues and themes.
- This course offers many opportunities for prayer, discussion and reflection on a variety of moral and social issues. Students will be **spiritually oriented** as they examine the relationship between literature and the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church.
- The Honors American Literature experience will also give students the opportunity to learn the skills they need to be successful in their 21st century personal and professional lives. These skills include: **Learning and Innovation** (Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Communication and Collaboration), **Information and Media Technology** (Information Literacy, Media Literacy, and ICT Literacy), and **Career and Life Skills**.
- Prerequisite: English II and Composition II

Course Objectives

1. Read, interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and respond to a variety of short stories, poems, novels, and dramatic pieces from various periods
2. Relate literary works to historical periods and relevant 21st century themes
3. Relate literature to personal experiences
4. Develop formal and creative writing skills
5. Develop vocabulary usage, grammar, and spelling
6. Prepare and deliver oral presentations based on topics and works studied in class
7. Effectively communicate using verbal and nonverbal language
8. Create and present artistic, musical, and dramatic projects based on selected topics and works studied in class
9. Use technology to enhance learning

Proposed Units

Summer Reading Assessments

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Unit 1: Colonial America and the Puritan Influence

Unit 2: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne/*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Unit 3: American Romanticism

Unit 4: Novel Study

Unit 5: American Voices: Transcendentalism

Unit 6: American Voices: Dickinson, Whitman, and Twain

Unit 7: 20th Century American Short Stories

Unit 8: Novel Study

Unit 9: 20th Century American Poetry

Unit 10: Novel Study

***Various independent reading assignments will be given throughout the year.**

Course Structure**1. Class Notes Folder:**

Students are required to maintain a folder for this class containing the following items:

- A) Journal entries
- B) Vocabulary: Definitions and Sentences
- C) Class Notes: Authors, Literary Terms, Reading Strategies, Historical Background
- D) Handouts and graded work

2. Assignments:

Assignments will be given on a regular basis. This includes work such as comprehension questions, poems, essays, and artwork. Assignments will either require submission on looseleaf paper or other methods described in each unit packet. Typed assignments must be on 8 1/2 x 11 paper using 12 pt Times New Roman or Cambria font and one-inch margins.

Handwritten assignments must be neat and legible. All assignments must be completed in black ink, and must have the proper class heading. Internet access may be required for some assignments. Students are encouraged to use the Media Center located on the second floor of the Becker Building. Students must be responsible for printing all assignments before class. Students may also be required to upload assignments to dropitto.me/mrsnfitzgerald (password: royals201)

3. Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given throughout the entire course. They may be announced or unannounced. If a student is tardy (unexcused), and a quiz is in progress, that student will not be permitted to take the quiz.

4. Tests:

Tests are the final assessment of any given unit. Sections on tests may include multiple choice, matching, true or false, short answer, and essay questions. All tests will be announced. If a student is tardy (unexcused), and a test is in progress, that student will not be permitted to take the test.

5. Projects:

Project criteria will be given at least two weeks before the due date. Students are advised to work diligently to complete projects in a timely manner. There are no exceptions for project due dates. Some projects will offer several options from which the student may choose. In an effort to promote literacy on Guam, all students will be *required* to participate in the annual Read-A-Thon sponsored by the Guam Council of the International Reading Association.

6. Participation:

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and activities. Students must come to class on time and be prepared. Students need their textbook/novels everyday, unless instructed otherwise. In addition, students must have their class folder and packet in class.

Course Policies**1. Make-up Work:**

If a student is unable to submit an assignment due to absence, he or she is required to submit the assignment on the first day he or she returns to class. Projects are an exception. Students have the due dates for projects in advance, so they must make arrangements for projects to be promptly submitted or uploaded to dropitto.me/mrsnfitzgerald (password: royals201)

Work assigned during a student's absence may be submitted one class period after the student returns. If students know ahead of time that they will be absent, they are encouraged to submit work early. Students must present an "excused" absence admit slip in order to submit missing work. Work from absent students who are marked "unexcused" will not be accepted.

In addition, students who missed quizzes or tests must make up the quiz or test on the first day they return to school. Class time will not be used to take make up quizzes or tests. Students must present an "excused" absence admit slip in order to take the quiz or test. Absent students who are marked "unexcused" will not be able to take the quiz or test. Quizzes and tests may be taken before school, during lunch (students may bring their food), or after school. Students are expected to make arrangements with Mrs. Fitzgerald.

2. Late Work:

Honors students are expected to be responsible for the completion and submission of their assignments and projects. Late work will not be accepted. **Students who are tardy (unexcused) to class will not be permitted to submit work.**

3. Extra Credit:

There will be opportunities for students to earn extra credit points in Honors American Literature. Extra points may be given for the following: entering and winning essay contests, submitting work to local publications, posting relevant comments on class discussion forums, or going above and beyond project requirements. Special extra credit projects will only be available to students who have completed all other class work. Extra credit points are only valid for the quarter in which they were earned. Students may add their extra credit points to various assignments, but points will not be applied to the overall grade. Students are encouraged to take advantage of extra credit opportunities as they become available.

4. Class Website and Online Grading:

Students will receive a printed copy of each unit packet. However, students who regularly use laptops or tablets are encouraged to use the pdf posted on the class website: www.fitzlit.weebly.com. In addition, student grades will also be posted on www.teacherease.com. Parents will receive an access code which will allow them to view their child(ren)'s current grades. Some assessments such as graded discussions, performances, and oral presentations will require peer evaluation in addition to the instructor's grades and comments.

5. Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to maintain academic honesty and integrity as students at NDHS by doing their own work to the best of their ability. Academic dishonesty (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.) will result in the student receiving consequences detailed in the Student Handbook.

6. School Handbook:

In addition to the class information explained above, Honors American Literature students are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Notre Dame High School Student/Parent Handbook.

**This syllabus may be modified at any time at the discretion of the teacher. Any changes will be communicated.*

Acknowledged by: _____
Mariesha Cruz-San Nicolas, Principal

(Please detach and return this portion to Mrs. Fitzgerald by August 16, 2013)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I have read the entire 2013-2014 Honors American Literature syllabus and understand it fully. I will honor the rules/policies of the class and obtain the materials required for this class.

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



“All the works of God go forward slowly and painfully, but their roots are all the sturdier and their flowering is all the lovelier.”

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of The School Sisters of Notre Dame

American Literature/Honors American Literature
Movie Permission Form

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Notre Dame High School suggests a parental/guardian permission for your child to view movies that are used in our curriculum which are rated PG-13 or R.

We believe showing your child films or portions of films enables them to benefit from another medium as a resource in their study of literature. Some scenes contained in these films contain language or images that are intended for mature audiences.

Movies, along with our activities such as reading, discussion and research projects, give students a well-rounded opportunity to discover the world of literature in a modern context. Films help students visualize facts and events. They also provide opportunities for students to become *globally concerned*, one of our expected school wide learning results.

Thank you for taking the time to read this permission form. The following is a list of films that *may* be used during the 2013-2014 school year. In most cases, a film will not be shown in its entirety.

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Amazing Grace</i> (2006) - PG | <i>Soundtrack for a Revolution</i> (2009) |
| <i>Amistad</i> (1997) - R | <i>Tales of Edgar Allan Poe</i> (1986) |
| <i>Dead Poets Society</i> (1989) - PG | <i>The Crucible</i> (1996) PG-13 |
| <i>Glory</i> (1989) - R | <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (1974 - PG) (2000 - TV Movie) |
| <i>Gone With the Wind</i> (1939) G | (2013 - PG-13) |
| <i>Lincoln</i> (2012) - PG13 | <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> (1992) - R |
| <i>Malcolm X</i> (1992) - PG13 | <i>The Outsiders</i> (1983) - PG |
| <i>Mississippi Burning</i> (1989) - R | <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (1979) - TV Mini-Series |
| <i>Rappaccini's Daughter</i> (1980) - TV Movie | <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (1962) NR |
| <i>Roots</i> (1977) - TV Mini-Series | |

Best Regards,

Mrs. N. Fitzgerald - American Literature/Honors American Literature

Acknowledged By: Mariesha Cruz-San Nicolas, Principal

Student: _____

Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate full-length movies or clips rated PG-13 or R.

No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate full-length movies and clips of the types mentioned in this letter. I understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____