

ENGLISH II: AMERICAN LITERATURE

English 11 American Literature—2016-17

Mr. Art Leo

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Course Overview

English 11: American Literature offers a thematic and chronological approach to the development of American literature and reflects on the cultural diversity of the American spirit. Students will receive exposure to different cultures in relationship to American experiences. We may cover texts from the eras prior to European colonization in the 1600s up through contemporary times. Our reading selections are taken from multiple genres (nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama) and will be race and gender inclusive. Attention will also be paid to the historical/cultural contexts of the literary periods. In addition to a survey of American literature, this course will include a variety of writing approaches including analytical, narrative, and persuasive essays.

Preparation and Participation:

English 11: American Literature is not a lecture course. Active participation by every student in discussions will best allow students to discover meaning and techniques in the literature they read. In order to have the most interesting and effective discussions, all students must be prepared for class. This means more than just a cursory reading of the day's assignment. Students will learn to come to class with questions and observations about the literature they have read, prepared to participate actively in class discussions and activities.

Attendance:

Students who miss class due to sports, extended vacations or other extracurricular activities will not be present for discussions, which are imperative for success. Those who miss a scheduled assessment or writing deadline are expected to make this up according to the CAC Student Handbook policy. If you miss class, please follow these steps in order:

1. Check the Class Plan—Read the class assignment posted on the course Moodle page. Here you will find descriptions of the activities you missed. You will also find information about the assigned homework and whether any handouts were distributed.
2. Find a Friend—Confer with a classmate who takes good notes and is willing to share them. Copy the class notes. Find an appropriate way to express your gratitude to your classmate.
3. Consult Your Teacher—If you have followed steps #1 and #2 and still have questions or require clarifications, please consult your teacher as soon as possible. These conversations are most effective in person, but e-mail may be sufficient.

** If you have missed a deadline and need to turn in work, please submit it to your teacher by

placing it in his eager hands.

Required Materials:

- Laptop computer
- A 3-ring binder with dividers or folder
- College-ruled paper
- Pens and pencils
- Internet access for submitting paperless assignments.

Laptop Use Expectations:

Students must bring a laptop to class daily. Most class periods will require student use of a laptop. Laptops should be fully charged prior to class time. When laptops are in use, students are expected to open only programs and internet sites appropriate to the topic at hand in the class. Students are also expected to adhere to the CAC Acceptable Use Policy.

Integrity/Honor, Grading, Homework, and Late Work:

- We will adhere to CAC's Honor Code and consequences for violations. Students who break the honor code can expect to receive a zero for the assignment. Discussion of integrity, honor, and plagiarism issues specific to an English class are a regular part of our discourse throughout the year.
- All students must follow all assignment directions or parameters. Failure to do so may result in partial or complete loss of credit for an assignment.
- Tests and quizzes: Expect two major tests per semester, not including the final semester exam. All major exams will be announced in advance to allow students significant time to prepare. Quizzes may be given regularly over the required reading or any other course content. Students should be prepared for daily class work, which may include a quiz covering the assigned reading.
- Written work: This category includes all essay processes, including in-class essays, written homework, and written classroom activities. Daily WEDGE activities, however, are unmarked.
- Oral work: This includes all formal and informal verbal work, including all oral/auditory class discussions, small group discussions, formal presentations, and seminar presentations.

Expectations:

Every student learns best in a positive, respectful environment, where productivity and effort are rewarded. Therefore, every student is expected to contribute actively and meaningfully to his or her own learning on a regular basis, and also to the learning of others.

- Not all work will be graded, but there will be a variety of assessed work that will reflect the skills, abilities, and effort of individual students.
- Homework is a regular part of the course. Students will be reading, writing, and studying course material regularly.
- It is the student's responsibility to know and keep track of all assignments. Course documents will be posted on Moodle, reminders will be provided in class, and grade book entries will be updated in a timely fashion.
- Homework is due at the start of the class for which it is assigned. There will be scoring penalties for late work, and time sensitive work may not be accepted late. Students who may occasionally feel an overload in their classes should be proactive and request help prior to the

due date for an assignment.

N.B. I am here to support you in any way that I can. It is important that you feel free to meet with me before or after school, during the lunch break, or during a flex period. If you encounter any problems or concerns with an assignment, please email me at the email address on the front of this handout. I want us all to have a very good and successful school year!