### **American Literature 2022-2023**

### **Mr. Frederick**

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**Course Description and Objectives**

Welcome to American Literature! This course is a survey of American literary periods, and it is designed primarily to help you to accomplish the following:

1. Identify and explain connections between American literary periods and works.

2. Verbally articulate sophisticated responses to challenging American literary fiction and nonfiction.

3. Write developed compositions in response to course texts and topics.

4. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar.

5. Master vocabulary found in course texts.

**Major Texts**

*Prentice-Hall Literature: The American Experience*

*Winesburg, Ohio*, Sherwood Anderson

*Our Town*, Thornton Wilder

*The Crucible*, Arthur Miller

*A Call to Conscience: The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*The House on Mango Street,* Sandra Cisneros

**Cooperative Learning**

We will work together often and at length on our way to achieving the course goals, so you must have the flexibility to work with different kinds of people. But cooperative learning is more than just an exercise in socialization; teamwork enhances productivity, facilitates the sharing of talents, fosters friendships, leads to greater self-knowledge, and can even yield the profound experience of belonging to something greater than the sum of its parts. Please enter the process with an open mind, especially when you are teamed with someone(s) you think you have little in common with, don’t know, or might not even like. Remember, the world is full of these kinds of people. I boldly suggest to you as our class begins that, after high school, your ability to work with diverse people will have a tremendous effect on your quality of life—greater than your language arts skills will.

**Writing Assignments**

In addition to shorter, informal writings, we will write longer, more formal compositions that will be submitted for evaluation on turnitin.com. Information regarding the nature of these writings and how they will be assessed will be forthcoming. Due dates will be announced.

The major compositions serve as summative assessments in this course and, thus, are eligible for second attempts—“retakes”—consistent with school policy. (A new topic must be selected for a “retake.”) Again, details are forthcoming, and the process will be clearer to you as we become familiar with turnitin.com. In the meantime, please know that I want you always to write to an audience of your classmates and your teacher, and that you may be asked to share aloud significant portions of your writing.

**Late Work**

It is important that you complete all readings, compositions, and assignments by the given due dates so that you can participate thoughtfully in class activities and receive descriptive feedback that will grow your reading, writing, and speaking skills. A course of this magnitude will become even more difficult if you fall behind. Therefore, I will subtract 10% from the grade for the first day an assignment or composition is late, 10% for the second day, and 10% for the third day. After three days, the assignment will be scored as a zero.

**Academic Integrity**

Intellectual honesty is paramount in academic endeavors, and this course is no exception. If an idea is yours, you may of course present it as such. If it is not, you must cite the source. Misrepresenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own is plagiarism, and will result in no credit for the work submitted.

**Assessment**

Quarter Averages = 20% Class Activities

35% Quizzes

45% Compositions

Semester 1 Avg. = Qtr. 1 Avg. (40%) + Qtr. 2 Avg. (40%) + Midterm (20%)

Semester 2 Avg. = Qtr. 3 Avg. (40%) + Qtr. 4 Avg. (40%) + Final Exam (20%)

Final Grade = Sem 1 Avg. (50%) + Sem 2 Avg. (50%)

**Conclusion**

The texts that we read are generally challenging; they require focus. Additionally, you need to express yourself with clarity and insight, both in writing and in speaking. However, I think you will find this course interesting. It is my sincere hope that you learn much—not only about American Literature, but about yourself as well. Welcome! Let’s learn!