

Course Information, Rules and Grading Procedures

THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE IS THAT YOU MUST BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE CLASS AT ALL TIMES.

- I. CONFERENCE PERIOD: 3rd hour – Scheidler/3rd hour – Wabel

- II. ATTENDANCE/TARDIES
 - a. See the student handbook and classroom discipline plan for policies.
 - b. You are responsible for all missed work due to absences or tardies.
 - c. Hall passes will be very limited. If you must leave class to get materials, you will be charged with a tardy.
 - d. Your planner must be filled out properly to leave the room. It is the ONLY HALL PASS. NO PLANNER-NO PASS!
 - e. No staff member may excuse you from our class. Inform the staff member that you must check with us first if you wish to miss my class or if you will be more than 5 minutes late. CHECK WITH US FIRST.

- III. PREPARATION FOR CLASS:
 - a. Come with all materials needed for the day's work.
 - b. Assignments must be completed before the beginning of class, or they will be considered a day late.
 - c. One day late is half credit and 2 days or more is no credit or one point.
 - d. Exceptions must be discussed with the teacher.

- IV. ABSENCES AND ASSIGNMENTS
 - a. You are required to make up assignments missing due to legitimate absence. See the handbook for time limits. Tests/quizzes must be made up the day you return (before or after school) unless special arrangements are made with the teacher(s).
 - b. You will receive no credit for grades missed due to truancy.
 - c. Long range assignments will be expected on the original due date regardless of absence. Have a parent or another student bring it in.
 - d. If you are absent on a group presentation day, you will receive a zero for the project.
 - e. All assignments are due at the beginning of the next class day unless stated otherwise.
 - f. Check the boards, agendas, or online when you have been absent, then consult with another student, and finally see the teacher if you still need clarification.
 - g. Pick up all homework sheets, dittoes, etc. from the designated area when you return.
 - h. ALL ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, AND QUIZZES ARE TO BE COMPLETED IN PEN.

V. GRADING

92-100%	A
89-91%	A-
86-89%	B+
82-85%	B
79-81%	B-
76-78%	C+
72-75%	C
69-71%	C-
66-68%	D+
62-65%	D
59-61%	D-
58%	E

Any fraction .6% or higher will be rounded up. For example, 89.6% becomes 90%. However, 89.4% remains 89%.

Extra credit may be allowed with prior approval from the instructor(s). Extra credit is NOT an option unless all regular work is completed and submitted to the teachers – even if late. When Extra Credit is approved, the **deadline is 10 SCHOOL DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF THE MARKING PERIOD** or when announced/noted by the teachers or the agenda.

Your grade for American Humanities will be a combined grade good for both your English credit and your History credit. We will each keep a separate grade for you during the marking period. At the end of the marking period, your two grades will be averaged for your Humanities grade. Suppose you earn an 88% in English and a 92% in History. Your average will be 90%, and you will receive an A- for Humanities. That A- will count twice for your GPA.

As many as four book reports may be required during the school year, one per marking period. They may be completed any time during the marking period, and may be written or oral. If you prefer to do an oral report, let me know ahead of time so I can schedule you in the plans. You may choose to work as a pair or a group, read the same book, or even do a performance evaluation of the book. Each member of the group will receive the same grade, so work out the division of labor beforehand. Complaints of an uncooperative or lazy member of a group will mean the complaineer is out and will have to do a personal book report by the same due date.

There will be periodic quizzes as I want to reinforce concepts, material, or vocabulary. Quizzes will usually be announced in advance, but there may also be some surprises. There will be short, normally around ten questions, fewer if essay questions.

Extra credit may be earned through reading extra books, making extra reports to the class about material related but not thoroughly covered in class, or watching and critiquing movies related to our studies. You will receive a list of suggested movies.

Written work, i.e. essays, creative writings, written book reports, and the research paper must be typed or done on a word processor. If you don't have a computer available to you, you may use the one in the classroom before or after school, or during my 3rd hour conference. I will grade on content and continuity, as well as the mechanical standards: spelling, grammar, correct word choice, and syntax.

The research paper will most likely be done during the second semester. It will be approximately 5 to 7 pages typed, with end notes, works cited, and bibliography. You will have to choose some aspect of American literature, history, or art for the research paper.

Assignments will be separate. A vocabulary quiz in English or a current events quiz in history would count for only that one class. You will be informed when a project will count for both classes; we will not make you guess.

In addition, it must be stressed that this class will emphasize different types of projects and learning activities. You will not get many objective tests over units or stories. Primarily, culminating activities will be research projects delivered orally, group projects, papers, or performance activities rather than traditional tests.

AMERICAN HUMANITIES BLOCK

Outline for Course

(Subject to change)

Sept 8–Sept 11	Get Acquainted. Native Americans, Puritans, Colonization.
Sept 14-Sept 18	The Crucible , finish the Puritan Age and begin the Neoclassic Age. The French and Indian War and Last of the Mohicans .
Sept 21-Sept 25	Revolutionary writers such as Paine, Jefferson, Franklin and Freedom of the Press. Causes of the American Revolution, the War for Independence and Art Video #2 .
Sept 28-Oct 1 (Oct 2 = no students)	Finish the Neoclassic Age, “Pithy Aphorisms”, and the creation of a new government.
Oct 5 1–Oct 9	Beginning the Romantic Age, Emerson Thoreau, The War of 1812 and Northwest Territory. Amistad and Art Video #1 .
Oct 12-Oct 16	Other Romantic writers, Sectionalism and the Causes of the Civil War <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
End of First Marking Period (Oct 16)	
Oct 19-Oct 23	Transitional writers: Bierce, Douglas, Truth, Whitman. The Civil War.
Oct 26-Oct 30	Emily Dickenson and American Folklore. Reconstruction and the Opening of the West. Art Video #3 .
Nov 2- Nov 6 (Nov 3 = No Students)	The Age of Realism, begin Huck Finn . The Rise of Business and Industry.
Nov 9-Nov 12 (Nov 13 = No Students) Parent Teacher Conferences (Nov 13) Nov 16-Nov 20	Huck Finn and a continuation of the Rise of Business and Industry. Art Video #4 . Finish Huck Finn , Major Essay. The Age of Immigration and Invention.
Nov 23-Nov 24	Work on writing, more information on the Age of Realism. Turn of the Century and Progressivism.
Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 25-27	
Nov 30- Dec 4	Begin The Jungle & “Fast Food Nation” Continue Progressivism.
End of Second Marking Period (Dec. 4)	
Dec 7-Dec 11	<i>The Jungle</i> , Progressivism, Imperialism and the Spanish American War.
Dec 14-Dec 18	Writing on <i>The Jungle</i> , Unit on music, painting and architecture of the turn of the century.
Dec 15-Dec 19	Hemingway, London Frost and Holmes. The causes and effects of World War I. Influenza Video
Dec 21 & Dec 22	Continue 1900 to 1919, Versailles and the New World Order.
Holiday Break – Dec 23 - Jan 1	
Jan 4-Jan 8	Begin 1920’s and the Great Gatsby, intro to business and politics of the 1920s.
Jan 11-Jan 15	Continue Gatsby and the 1920’s.
Jan 18 (Monday) MLK, Jr. Day – No Classes	
Jan 19- Jan 21	Finish Gatsby, major paper. Harlem Renaissance, work on the 1920’s.
Jan 25 (Monday)	

Jan 26-Jan 28 (Tues-Thurs) MIDTERM EXAMS and End of Third Marking Period

Feb 1-Feb 5 1920's projects due, begin the 1930's projects. Steinbeck. Intro to the 1930's and the Great Depression.

Feb 8-Feb 12 **The Grapes of Wrath**, finish discussing the Depression and the New Deal.

Feb 15-Feb 19 1930's Projects due. Depression Breadline.

Feb 22- Feb 25 Begin the 1940's, discuss Faulkner, Cummings, Frost. Discuss World War II .

Mid-Winter Break Feb 26

Mar 1-Mar 4 Begin work on research paper. Continue discussion of the 1940's.

Mar 8-Mar 12 1940's Projects due, begin 1950's. USO Dance.

End of Fourth Marking Period (Mar 12)

Mar 15-Mar 19 The Jet Age, The Beat Age, Beginning of the Cold War, Ginsberg and Kerouac.

Mar 22- Mar 25 (Mar 26 = no students) Catcher in the Rye, The Atomic Age, 1950's projects due, Coffee House.

Mar 29- Apr 1 1960's modern poets. Protest Literature Ann Moody. The Kennedy years, the Civil Rights movement.

Spring Break (Apr 2 – Apr 9)

Apr 12-Apr 16 Work on the 60's project and the research paper. Johnson and Vietnam.
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest?

Apr 19-Apr 23 1960's projects due. "Be-In", Begin the 1970's.

Apr 26- Apr 30 1970's poets. Vonnegut, Oates and Tan. Détente, and Watergate.
Fahrenheit 451

End of Fifth Marking Period (Apr 30)

May 3-May 7 1970's Projects due, Discotheque. Begin the 1980's.

May 10-May 14 The Reagan Revolution, the end of the Cold War. Punk rock and Power Suits.

May 17-May 21 1980's Projects and Power Breakfast.

May 24-May 27 (May 28 = No Students) Begin the 1990's and beyond. Modern Economics, Globalization and the War on Terror.

Memorial Day – May 31

Jun 1-Jun 4 Continue work on the 1990's and beyond. Begin Final Exam Presentations.

Jun 7&8 Continue work on the 1990's and beyond. Begin Final Exam Presentations

June 9-Jun 11 Final Exam Presentations

June 11 – Last Day of 2009-2010 School Year

Dates and material are approximate. We will try to cover this as accurately as possible, keeping in mind that we may want to deviate or to explore other ideas generated by the class.