

MVLA
2019-2020
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Course Title: American Literature Honors

School: Mountain View High School

UC/CSU requirement: 10 credits; Subject B (English)

Textbook and/or other learning resources: *The American Experience, The Scarlet Letter, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Great Gatsby, Death of a Salesman, Linden Hills, The Craft of Research, MLA Handbook* and selections of nonfiction, stories, and poetry from the following literary periods:

- Native American Literature and Ideas
- Puritan Literature and Ideas (1607-1765)
- Age of Reason Literature and Ideas (1765-1830)
- Romantic Literature and Ideas (1830-1865)
- Transcendentalist Literature and Ideas (1855-1870)
- Civil War Era Poetry (1860-1870)
- Realism & Regionalism Literature and Ideas (1865-1910)
- Modernism and Harlem Renaissance Literature and Ideas (1910-1945)
- Postmodern Literature and Ideas (1945-)

Student Learning Outcomes:

American Literature Honors is a comprehensive course, charting the development of the collective and discordant American mind from the 1600s to the present. Essential questions explored: *What is the influence of perspective on the telling of history and stories? Where am I in accord or discord with the fragments of the American mind in our texts? What are the traits of the American literary voice? What is the American Dream?* By the end of the course, students will be able to answer these questions for themselves and contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discourse about American culture and history by referencing the texts studied and connecting them to contemporary media.

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Understanding of Puritan Literature and Ideas* 10%● Understanding of Age of Reason Literature and Ideas* 10%● Understanding of Romantic Literature and Ideas* 10%● Understanding of Transcendentalist Literature and Ideas* 10%● Demonstration of Research Skills 20%● Expository and EPT/EAP Writing Skills 10%● Critical Reading and Literary Terms Score 5%● Critical Writing Score 5%● Work Completion Habits (at home) 5%● Class and Group Work Habits (at school) 5%● Class Discussion and Speech Skills 10% | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Understanding of Dickinson and Whitman's Poetry* 5%● Understanding of Realism and Regionalism* 10%● Understanding of Modernism & Harlem Renaissance* 10%● Understanding of Postmodernism* 10%● Research Organization & Writing Skills 15%● Narration, Characterization, Theme Development 10%● Expository and EPT/EAP Writing Skills 10%● Critical Reading Score 5%● Critical Writing Score 5%● Work Completion Habits (at home) 5%● Class and Group Work Habits (at school) 5%● Class Discussion, Presentation and Speech Skills 10% |
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*Grades in each particular literary era category will reflect students' performance across the reading, writing, speaking, and listening standards.

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category: Standards-based summative assessments consisting of selected response questions, short answers, and multi-paragraph responses; original writing in the modes of report of research, literary analysis, editorial, reflective, poetic, and narrative fiction; Socratic seminars and presentations, both formal and informal.

3. Grading scales: Grades for each academic standard-based category (and for the semester) will be determined by the following scale: A= Advanced, B= Proficient, C= Approaching Proficiency, D= Developing, F= Beginning, I= No evidence/missing/incomplete. Scoring guides for each assignment determine letter grades, which have the following numeric equivalents when entered into the system:

Mark	Rubric Score	Mark	Rubric Score
A+	4.66 - 5.00	C	2.33 - 2.65
A	4.33 - 4.65	C-	2.00 - 2.32
A-	4.00 - 4.32	D+	1.66 - 1.99
B+	3.66 - 3.99	D	1.33 - 1.65
B	3.33 - 3.65	D-	1.00 - 1.32
B-	3.00 - 3.32	F	0.00 - 0.99
C+	2.66 - 2.99	I	0.00

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)): Students are expected to read (20-30 pages) or write for one hour per night, four nights per week and 1-2 hours on weekends. When suggested by your teacher, you are encouraged to use your homework time to collaborate with others for the purposes of research, revision, and review before a test.
5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)): When possible, communicate with your teacher in advance of planned absences. You may turn in work missed when you return.
6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)): Work should be original and otherwise properly cited.
7. Late work practices: Your teacher will support you in working to deadlines. If you need additional support or time, please meet with your teacher to strategize and plan for turning work in as soon as possible.
8. Revision practices: Students are encouraged to revise their class work for increased learning of course objectives. When you revise your work, please submit the original, attaching it to the back of the revision. In the margins of the revision, please write specific comments indicating exactly what has been improved in the second iteration.
9. Extra credit practices: Because students are encouraged to revise their assignments, no *additional* assignments for extra credit are provided in this course.
10. Additional grading practices: Your teacher will assess your work primarily FOR the benefit of your learning, rather than just using assessments as a measurement OF your learning. So your teacher may encourage you to revise your work frequently to reach more advanced levels of understanding and skill.

Instructors' email addresses: steven.kahl@mvla.net kristen.krauss@mvla.net mia.newton@mvla.net

Additional information:

- Please use one notebook for your “daily journal,” a collection of reflections on your learning, along with notes from your reading.
- Please use another notebook for your “author study notebook” in order to develop more specifically your emerging ideas about the works of your selected author.

