Junior English Syllabus and Overview

American Dreams/American Values

This year in Junior English we will work to increase your close reading and effective writing skills needed to be successful in senior English, college courses, and your professional and personal lives. Many classroom activities will focus on strategies you can use to improve your comprehension of written texts.

We will focus on the theme of American Dreams/American values and read a variety of literature covering over 200 years of our nation’s history.

Our primary text is *Elements of Literature* (5th edition), which features American writings from the early Native Americans to contemporary authors.

Some of the titles we’ll read this year include *Friday Night Lights*, *The Crucible*, and *The Great Gatsby*.

We’ll write several essays including descriptive and cause and effect essays and a multiple-source, multiple-page MLA-style research paper.

Classroom Expectations for Student Behavior

- Come to class on time with needed materials.
- Respect every student’s right to learn.
- Work independently and collaboratively at the appropriate times.
- Food, beverages (other than water), cell phones, electronic music devices, and playing cards are not allowed in this classroom.
- Students with an excused absence will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete missing work. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Please see your teacher if you are absent.
- Late work policy: Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date for a maximum score of 80%. Test retakes or essay rewrites must be completed within one week of the test or due date. Test corrections must be completed during CORE/FLEX or before or after school by arrangement with your teacher.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR:

Mr. Hudson grew up just south of town in Centralia. Through a long series of misadventures, he managed to obtain his undergraduate degree from Seattle University and his Masters in Education from Boston College. He taught middle-school for 5 years just outside of Boston, then relocated back to his hometown. Married, with four kids, Mr. Hudson can often be found working alone in his classroom hours before dawn, simply because that is the only peace and quiet he can find.

At THS Mr. Hudson is entering his 8th year of teaching Freshman and Junior core classes, as well as two Senior electives. Why does he love teaching? “I’ve learned more teaching than I did in any school I ever attended.”

Contacting your teacher

Call the main office during school hours, 709-7600 or email your instructor:

seth.hudson@tumwater.k12.wa.us

www.hudsonsclass.com
Grading Categories:

- Writing—30%
- Literary Comprehension and Analysis—30%
- Engaged Learning—20%
- Vocabulary and Grammar Activities—10%
- Research and Presentations—10%

No extra credit will be offered; however, extended learning opportunities on unit quizzes or tests may be available.

First Semester in Junior English

This semester we will begin by looking at your personal definition of the American Dream. We’ll then explore how that dream has been meaningful in different places and times in our nation’s history.

We’ll read Bissinger’s non-fiction work, Friday Night Lights, about the passionate devotion to football in a small west Texas town and Arthur Miller’s The Crucible, a play about the Salem witch trials.

We’ll cover literature from Colonial America through the American Romantics in the textbook. During this overview of American literature, we’ll read about the Puritans and the writings that accompanied the Revolutionary War. We’ll read imaginative stories by great American writers like Edgar Allan Poe and Washington Irving.

Second Semester in Junior English

We’ll continue our overview of American literature by studying the Realism, Regionalism, Naturalism, and Modernism in American literature.

Our major works will include The Great Gatsby and several short stories.

Again, students will have the opportunity to write journals, essays and other responses to the works that we are reading.

The major assignment for this semester is the junior project. Students will receive points for each step in the research process as well as for the final project. During the completion of the project, students will research both print and electronic sources and synthesize their findings in a multi-page MLA-style research paper.

Students will formally present their Junior Project to their classmates.

Materials Needed:

- 1-inch notebook or binder
- Notebook divider sections
- Notebook paper
- USB flash drive (jump drive)*
- At least 3 highlighters of various colors
- *Requested but not required

Turnitin.com

Students will be required to submit essays electronically as part of the writing process. The program, Turnitin.com, is used to check for originality and to prevent plagiarism. Students will be instructed in the use of this software.

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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(+ and — grades will be given)

I hereby acknowledge receipt and review of an exact copy of this syllabus. I understand that students are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in this document.

___________________________________  ______________________  _______________________
Parent/guardian signature  Student signature  Date