**Literature and Composition**

Mr. Cleary – B237

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**Class website** – www.clearyphs.weebly.com – for handouts, daily reminders, blogging activity and more

Welcome to Literature and Composition, a course designed to help students develop the strong literacy and critical thinking skills crucial in today’s workplace. Throughout this yearlong course, students will read, analyze, discuss, and write about literature and other media, often to help explore the course’s focus question: what is the American Dream? Daily, students must participate in small and/or large group discussions.

**Proposed Course Outline**

**First semester**

Composition – writing for real world purposes:

* Express/Reflect
* Inform
* Evaluate and Judge
* Inquire and explore
* Analyze and interpret
* Take a stand/propose a solution

Literature – The Declaration of Independence, Selected excerpts from works of the American transcendentalists

**Second Semester**

Literature - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Great Gatsby, A Streetcar Named Desire (drama), A Raisin in the Sun (drama), multicultural American dream choice novel

*All juniors are required to take the ACT. Therefore, we will occasionally work on ACT prep until the date of the test (in March).*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 95-100 | Exceptional quality - work exceeds expectations. The student has mastered the skill being assessed. |
| A- | 93-94 | Outstanding quality – near mastery |
| B+ | 91-92 | Good quality – skill has been or is close to being achieved |
| B | 87-90 |
| B- | 85-86 |
| C+ | 83-84 | Satisfactory quality – skill is being developed |
| C | 80-82 |
| C- | 78-79 |
| D+ | 76-77 | Basic quality – the work needs improvement. The student is working to improve basic skills |
| D | 72-75 |
| D- | 70-71 |

**Assessment**

**Quarter Assessment**

All graded work during a quarter fits into two weighted categories:

* Formative assessments 10%
* Summative assessments 90%

**Semester Exams/Semester Grades**: These are opportunities to show accumulated learning and which skills students have truly mastered; semester exams play a major role in college courses, and they will contribute 10% of each semester grade in this class.

* First semester grade = first quarter grade (45%) + second quarter grade (45%) + semester exam grade (10%)
* Second semester grade = third quarter grade (45%) + fourth quarter grade (45%) + semester exam grade (10%)

**Procedures/Expectations**

**Absences**

If absent, it is the student’s responsibility to find out what he or she missed - students can speak with me (at a time OTHER THAN the beginning of class), check the web site/daily reminders/texts, or talk to someone else from class. For each excused absence, you will have two days to make up any learning assigned during your absence. For example, if you were gone on Monday and there was an assignment due Tuesday, you must get the assignment on Tuesday, and your work will be due on Thursday.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism (yes, this includes “Frankenstein” jobs!) is dishonest; it does not reflect a student’s abilities. It is unacceptable. Plagiarism in any form will result in an automatic failure for that project or assessment and a referral to the high school office. Students will have an opportunity to redo the assignment for a lower grade.

**Essay Revisions**
If the essay is turned in on time, the student will be permitted to rewrite the essay to improve his or her quality of writing and earn a higher grade. Revising, however, is work, not an exercise in spelling and fixing simple grammatical errors. The student is expected to significantly revise the essay in the rewriting process. Revised essays are due within one week of receiving the assessed work.

**Homework**
Practice and reading assignments are expected to be completed for mastery of the course’s content. While these assignments may not be formally assessed in Skyward, they will be used as the foundation for future and larger assessments.

**Cell Phones/iPods, etc.**

These can also function as learning tools, but with your netbook, you won’t need them. I expect not to see these unless otherwise stated. Students are allowed to carry cell phones during the day, but they must be off and put away during class to minimize distractions. A parent/guardian needing to contact a student can quickly relay a message through the high school office (893-6911).

**Tardiness/Restroom/Passes**

You should use the restroom before you come to class. Do not come to class just before the bell rings and ask to go to the restroom. If you are late to class, you MUST PROVIDE A PASS! You may not leave the room without a pink pass!

**Missing/Late Work**

**Formative Assessments:**

These are “small ticket” items completed during the learning process. They allow you to practice and develop new skills, and they help me plan what to do next. Examples include blogs, checkpoints, practice assignments, etc. Some of these will be graded and placed in Skyward; others will not. Graded formative assessments will make up a small portion of your quarter grade (10%). Checkpoint assignments have a firm due date and you may not make them up (unless you inform me of any unique circumstances). Other formative assessments may be accepted after the due date and before the content’s summative assessment. This means you may not submit a formative assessment (for a grade) after the unit’s essay, project, test, etc.

**Summative Assessments:**

These are “big ticket” assessments which come at the end of a unit. Examples include essays, projects, quizzes, and tests. Summative assessments provide evidence of what you can do, what you know, and what you understand. These make up the largest portion of your quarter grade, and they have a firm deadline.

If you submit a summative assessment on time, you will have the opportunity for a graded re-assessment. You may revise an essay, but you must submit your revision within one week of the date you received the graded essay from me, and you must follow the essay resubmission requirements below. I strongly suggest a conference (period 1, period 10, or after school) to go over your revisions before you submit your revised work.

If you miss a summative assessment deadline, you may submit the assessment for full credit within two weeks, but ONLY IF YOU SEE ME FOR A CONFERENCE (period 1, period 10, or after school). It is your responsibility to see me and schedule a time when we can both meet**. I will not accept late summative assessments without a conference**. If you submit a summative assessment late, you will not have the chance for a graded re-assessment. If you miss the two week window, you will receive a zero.

**Essay Submission Requirements:**

You must complete your revisions on the same Word document I emailed back to you. Make sure that “track changes” is selected (click on “Review” and then click the “track changes” button). When “track changes” is on, anything you add to the document will appear underlined and in a different color, and anything you delete will appear crossed out and in a different color. This allows me to quickly see your revisions and compare them to my original comments. Please do not delete the original comments in the margins.