**American Literature Syllabus**

**Ms. Riley Stewart**

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**Room 319**

**Plan: 3rd/5th Hour**

**Building Phone: 314-773-002**7

**Course Description**:​ Students in American Literature focus on growing in their skills as analytical readers, effective writers, articulate speakers, and active listeners. Students apply these skills in their study of great works of classic and contemporary literature and in the creation of original arguments. This year we will ponder important topics such as the American identity, the concept of justice, individualism, and the realities of the American Dream.

**Course Objectives:** Students will become proficient in the following areas:

* Crafting complex literary analysis.
* Using evidence to propel assertions.
* Engaging in high-level discussion.
* Developing voice and style as a writer.
* Participating in a classroom community.
* Giving professional, engaging presentations.

**General Expectations:** ​You are expected to be responsible for your learning by bringing what you need for class, always preparing for assignments on time, taking notes, asking questions, contributing to class discussions, and remaining attentive and organized. Your close reading, daily discussions, and writing are essential to your academic success. There will be frequent checks of your learning throughout the year.

* Come to class on-time, prepared with all materials, assigned readings, and homework completed
* Always be open to hearing others’ opinions and ideas
* Be respectful of others
* Advocate for yourself and your needs.
* Do your best.

**Due Dates/Late, Incomplete, Revisions, and Missed Assignments:** The goal of this course is to produce organized, diligent, and mature learners. Late work will not be accepted, unless a student has asked for an extension and received verbal or written approval from me before the start of the school day. During this conversation, we will agree upon a new due date. All assignments will close on teams at the due date.

Students are allowed and encouraged to revise major assignments (with the exception of end of semester exams) **for full points.** However, in order to revise, **you must arrange for a sit-down meeting with me to discuss how you will make improvements to your revised work.** Revisions will not be accepted until a conference has taken place.

**Absences/Make-Up Work:** We are all bound to be absent at some point this year, and my expectation is that students will meet with me or email me the day they return to school to discuss make-up work (even if they don’t have my class that day). If you do not reach out to me the day that you return, late work will not be accepted.

**Phone Policy:** The school policy is No Cell Bell to Bell. If a student is using their phone during class time, they will receive a verbal warning. If the phone use continues, they will then receive a written email to parents, and finally a referral and detention.

**Academic Integrity: ​** Academic misconduct is cheating or plagiarizing (intentionally and unintentionally). All students committing academic misconduct will receive a zero on that assignment, will receive an email or phone call home, and will have a meeting with me. This assignment will not be open for revision. This includes works created using artificial intelligence.

**Required Materials:**

1. Laptop
2. Assigned text (will be provided by the instructor).
3. Note Taking materials (can be digital or physical).
4. AP College Board account (we will make this together)
5. St. Louis Public Library account

**Required Texts**: All required texts will be provided to students as physical copies, or as digital copies posted to our teams pages.

**Grading:** Grades will be a reflection of students’ mastery of specific language arts learning targets that incorporate elements of reading, writing, critical thinking, research, speaking, and listening skills. The grading breakdown is as follows:

Classwork: 45% of overall grade.

Assessment: 55% of overall grade.

| 90 - 100%  = A | 80 - 89%  = B | 70 - 79%  = C | 60- 69%  = D | 0 - 59%  = F | No Attempt  = 0 |
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**Written work**: This is an English class, and we will be doing lots of writing. The expectation for each written assignment is that you follow MLA format, meet the length requirement, and proofread your work to the best of your ability.

**Discussions:** ​This is an essential part of the class and is often how we study a text. Every student is expected to take part in discussion - whether informal and small group, or whole group assessments. If you have concerns about class discussions or need additional support, please meet with me to discuss.

***“The first thing I want to say to you who are students, is that you cannot afford to think of being here to receive an education: you will do much better to think of being here to claim one”***

***Adrienne Rich***