

**11th Grade Literature & Composition Class and AP Language & Composition:
Outline and Expectations**

Theme: In Search of the American Dream

Essential Question: In American Literature, what struggles for identity and self-discovery do we see as people seek to fulfill the American Dream? This is a literature-based course. Over the next few months, we will read a variety of American Literature that will help us to better understand the American experience. What is the foundation for our view of America? How did that view get shaped? We will also work on writing proficiency using accepted conventions of grammar, mechanics, and style to produce polished writing pieces for various purposes.

Reading: We will be reading, interpreting, and responding to the following material: The Crucible and/or The Scarlet Letter; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; Of Mice and Men; The Things They Carried; Selected writings by the Transcendentalists Emerson & Thoreau; and novels that may include The Great Gatsby, A Farewell to Arms, Their Eyes Were Watching God, or other relevant works by American authors.

Writing: You will be expected to write at least eight papers for various purposes, four of which will be polished pieces. Writing and grammar skills will focus on the following: style (including diction, tone, point of view, detail/imagery), argumentation, persuasion, setting, characterization, theme, response to literature, cultural context, and other relevant writing.

Grading: Each of the following areas is worth 25% of the total grade: Writing, Quizzes, Tests, and Class Participation (homework is included in this category).

AP Language & Composition: In addition to the regular curriculum, students will be expected to look closely at diction, tone, and meaning in our language. They will study essays, position papers, personal narratives, editorials—as well as communication techniques employed in film, art, photographs, and other media. They will understand appropriate uses for colloquial, formal, and professional writing, and will be able to interpret and comment on a variety of communicative styles.

Rules: I like to keep rules to a minimum unless it becomes necessary to apply more stringent ones:

- **Respect:** We will show respect for each other, our selves, and our surroundings at all times.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a form of stealing by claiming someone else’s work as your own. Plagiarized work will receive a grade of “zero” and may lead to loss of credit for the course.
- **Cheating:** See *Plagiarism*.
- **Miscellaneous:** Students are expected to adhere to the policies set forth in the MAUHS Student Handbook.

Administrivia

- **Come prepared:** You are expected to come to class prepared to work. That means you should bring any books that you will need, including a notebook or binder, and a pencil or pen with black or blue ink.
- **Absences:** You are responsible for all of your work, even if you are absent on the day it is assigned. **It is up to you to find out what you missed.** Arrangements will be made for make-up on an individual basis. Please refer to the student handbook for excessive absences policy.

Homework and other information is posted on my Website. Go to www.mauhs.org; click on “Teacher Websites; Click on my name (Frank Barnes). You can contact me through this site, by emailing me at fbarnes@svsu.org, or by calling – school, 447-7511; home, 447-1048.

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Please sign, detach, and return this portion.

I have read and understand the 11th grade Literature & Composition class outline and expectations.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Barnes' Grading Policy

Grading for this class is based upon work in four categories:

- ✓ **Writing**—this comprises journals, essays, creative writing, and research papers, including rough drafts when appropriate.
- ✓ **Quizzes**—this includes vocabulary quizzes, reading checks, and other quizzes that measure understanding of a topic or material that covers small units or lesser sections of larger units of study.
- ✓ **Tests**—these are assessments of understanding of larger concepts and complete works, such as when we finish a unit on short stories, a novel, a play, or some other major learning module. Also, some essays will be counted as test grades or a combination test/writing grade. When this occurs, the student will be made aware beforehand.
- ✓ **Class Participation**—this includes participation in small groups, class discussions, in-class projects, and general preparedness for class. *Homework is also included in this section because a student must complete assigned homework in order to contribute to class in a positive manner.*

Each of the four categories listed above counts as 25% of the total grade. Since there are fewer test grades than quiz or class participation grades, the test grades carry more weight. For example, there may be three test grades as opposed to fifteen quiz grades in a marking period; in such a case, the individual test grade is worth the equivalent of five quiz grades. Grades are cumulative through the progression of the course.