**American Literature**

**2018-19 Course Outline**

Ms Ann Nelson: msnelson.berean@gmail.com

Through American Literature, students assess their dual position as a citizen of the Kingdom of God, and a resident of the United States of America. Through an historical approach, students read the writings of past Americans, from early Native American myths, through the Puritans, Revolutionaries, Romantics, Realists, Modernists and into the current Postmodern era. Students analyze past American writers through a Christian perspective, considering the role Christ holds in the literature of past ages. Through these readings and analyses, students will develop their critical thinking, reading, writing and speaking abilities.

Students will read novels and a variety of short stories and poems. Each quarter's work will include classwork, tests/quizzes and a project. Homework nearly always consists of unfinished classwork, studying for tests/quizzes, or long-term projects. Students will have access to the textbook in class and they will find relevant source material in the shared google drive folder for use outside of class.

**First Quarter: Third Quarter:**

Eras: Native Americans, Puritans, Enlightenment Eras: Civil War, Frontier

Major Work: *Olaudah Equiano* Major Work: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Project: expository paper Project: research paper

**Second Quarter: Fourth Quarter:**

Eras: Romanticism Eras: Modernism, Postmodernism

Major Work: *Red Badge of Courage* Major Work: *The Crucible*

Project: expository paper Project: poetry project

**Materials needed:**

1. Digital folders for notes, vocabulary, handouts. Paper folder for returned work. Most handouts will be digital.
2. Paper and pens for non-ipad class work

**Course Format:**

This class involves both lecture and discussion. A significant portion of our time will be spent discussing, analyzing, and comparing the texts. Students must come to class having read the assigned material and ready to take an active role in their education.

**Class Policies:**

1. Bring your materials (paper, pen, ipad) with you to class ***everyday.***
2. Students are to be in their assigned seats--with their materials and having placed their phone in the hanging rack--before the tardy bell.
3. **No hats with brims for any student.** This is more strict than the school rule. After several warnings, continued infractions will result in demerits for disobedience, not dress code.
4. Cell phones used without permission will be confiscated and given to the dean and will likely result in demerits. Phones must be placed in hanging rack for the duration of class.
5. Late work will be accepted for a maximum of 50% (discounting work late due to absence) and must be completed within two weeks. Work more than two weeks late will not be accepted, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances.
6. Students may complete extra credit only if they have turned in all other assignments.
7. **Major papers (four total) must be printed.** It is the student’s responsibility to find an accessible and functional printer. **Neither technical difficulty nor an empty ink cartridge is a valid excuse for late work.**
8. All other policies are listed in the student handbook and/or the iPad Acceptable Use Policy and Guidelines.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Cheating of any kind is an insult to your teachers and classmates and is a major hindrance to your growth in wisdom and knowledge. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic “0” on the assignment, and will be given the appropriate amount of demerits.

In accordance with school policy, total plagiarism (turning in someone else’s work as your own) will result in 35 demerits and an automatic 0 on the assignment. Failure to properly acknowledge sources in a project will also result in disciplinary action, depending on the severity of the infraction. We will discuss plagiarism thoroughly in class so that students will understand how to avoid plagiarizing unintentionally.

**Films in Class:**

I plan to use clips in class from the films listed below. As the year progresses, I may discover more clips that will elucidate course material. I will never use an R-rated film in class. *Amazing Grace,* *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Dead Poets Society, The Great Debaters*

***Please return the bottom portion of this page to Ms Nelson.***

Student's Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents/Guardians--

The best way to communicate with me is through email (msnelson.berean@gmail.com). If you would like to speak with me, I will be happy to call you and/or meet in person. Please **check the appropriate box** and sign below:

□ I have read this outline and **I have no questions.**

□ I have read this outline and **I would like Ms Nelson to contact me** concerning:

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(Signature of Parent or Guardian)