**Course Title**: Studies in American Literature

**Semester:** Fall 2017 (August 2017-January 2018)- A Block

**Course Number:** 0018 (Honors) 0019 (College Prep Advanced)

**Grades:** 10-12

**Teacher:** Mrs. Merriam

**Classroom Number:** 3117

**Contact Information:** merriamk@tantasqua.org

**Extra-Help Night:** Tuesday afternoons 2:10-3:25 in room 3117

**Teacher Website:** [http://kmerriam.weebly.com](http://kmerriam.weebly.com/)

(This can be easily accessed by clicking on the link to Teacher Web Pages on the high school website)

**Course Description:**

Students will analyze and interpret a number of the most important American writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Students can expect to read eight full books and major excerpts from other works by writers such as Poe, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Twain, Chopin, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Steinbeck, Faulkner, Miller, Wright, and Vonnegut. Honors students will assume responsibility for one outside reading per author.

**Reading Materials:**

Texts: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne *Ethan Frome* by Edith Warton

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Walden* by Henry David Thoreau *In Our Time* by Ernest Hemingway

*Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

In addition to the above texts, each student will receive a *binder* containing copies of short stories and essays by authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, as well as other readings necessary for this course (including notes and literary criticism).

You will sign out the binder and keep it for the semester. Please take care of this binder. Do not write on any of the pages in the binder, remove any of the pages, or change the order of the pages.

**Course Outline:**

* Early American Literature- the Puritans (Hawthorne and Miller)
* Romantic Writers of the Early 1800s, The New England Renaissance (Irving, Poe, Emerson, Thoreau)
* Realist Literature (Twain, Chopin, Wharton)
* Modernism and the 1920s (Fitzgerald and Hemingway)
* The 1960s (O’Brien)

\*Note to students who are taking this course at the HONORS level:

As stated in the Course Description, students who are taking this course at the Honors level will be required to complete an additional outside reading assignment related to each author that we cover. I will be providing those readings and assignments to you. You will always have at least one week to complete this additional assignment. These assignments will be considered Test grades and will have a significant impact on your Test average and overall average.

**Required materials:**

* A writing utensil
* A three ring binder in which to keep all assignments and handouts for this class (this should be separate from the white binder with the course readings)
* Textbooks and white binder
* An assignment book to keep track of all short-term and long-term assignments, as well as dates of Quizzes and Tests
* \*Strongly recommended- a flash drive that you may use in the Computer Lab/Library so that you may access the writing you’ve done both at school and at home

**These items will remain in the classroom:**

* Writing journal- for in-class writing responses to prompts related to the reading assignments
* Writing portfolios- paper copies of major writing assignments will be kept in these portfolios in the classroom until the end of the semester

**Make-up work:**

It is your responsibility to find out what work you have missed while absent from class. When you return after an absence, please see me before or after class to receive materials and/or assignments you missed.

Please also utilize the teacher website to find out what you missed in class on days that you were absent. At the end of each school day I will update the class blog and include information about what we did in class, what the homework assignment is, and sometimes links to the materials that were handed out in class.

Please make up missing quizzes and tests as soon as possible. You must also go back and write responses in your journal to any prompts you may have missed while absent. A quiz or a test that is not made up will be marked as a 0. If any responses to journal prompts are missing or incomplete when I grade the journals it will have a negative impact on the student’s journal grade.

When possible, I prefer to have students make up quizzes and tests in class rather than having to do it after school. Students who have a Tutorial are also encouraged to make up missing work during that Tutorial.

**Grading/Evaluation of Learning:**

Your grade for this course will be determined by the following:

10% Classwork (assignments completed in class- both individually and in a group, daily participation, daily preparation)

10% Writing Journal

35% Quizzes (this includes both scheduled Quizzes and “surprise” Reading Check Quizzes)

45% Tests, Writing Assignments, Projects

\*Your Final Exam will count for 20% of your final grade for this course

I use the following formula to calculate student’s grades at the end of a semester:

Term 1/3 Average x 40% + Term 2/4 Average x 40% + Final Exam Score x 20% = Final Course Grade

Important Class Information:

**Daily and Weekly Schedules:**

-Will be posted on the white board in front of the classroom each day. The Daily Schedule will be updated for each course that I teach. A schedule for the entire week will be posted before classes begin each Monday. Students are encouraged to write down the assignments for the week in their assignment books at the beginning of class every Monday!

**Writing Journals:**

-Students will be asked to respond to a writing prompt that relates to the literature we are reading in their writing journals on a regular basis. Journals for each class will be kept in a crate in the front of the classroom. Please do not remove your journal from the class unless you wish to take it home and make up any missed assignments. If a student is absent from class and missed a journal prompt, that prompt will be stapled in to the student’s journal and the student is expected to write a response to the prompt during a free moment in class or after school upon the student’s return to class.

-Journals will be graded four times throughout the semester- twice before the close of Progress Report grades and twice before the close of Report Card grades.

-Journals will be graded based on the student’s efforts in responding to a prompt. I will be looking for the following when I grade your journals: 1. All required entries are included, 2. Responses meet the length requirements, 3.thoroughness of the response, and 4. Proof that the student has done the assigned reading.

**Major Writing Assignments and Projects:**

-Will be assigned at the conclusion of a major unit (the completion of a novel or play). These assignments must be turned in electronically on or before the assignment due date to *Turnitin.com*. Students will be shown how to create *Turnitin* accounts and how to submit their assignments to the teacher this way. An assignment that is turned in after the due date will be considered late. *Late papers and essays will lose 10 points per day that the assignment is turned in late*.

**Rewrites/retakes:**

-A student may rewrite an essay if he or she is unhappy with the grade and would like to improve it. Students have until the end of the Quarter to submit the rewritten essay, once the Quarter ends I will not accept a rewritten paper. Students who are turning in a rewritten version of a writing assignment must also turn in the original so that the teacher may see what changes the student has made to improve the essay.

-Students will not be allowed to retake any quizzes or tests to try and improve a poor grade. Please prepare adequately for these types of assessments.

**Homework:**

-Will be assigned in the form of reading assignments. Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedules and to do the daily assigned reading. You can expect to be asked to read an average of 20 pages per night in the Studies course (this will vary somewhat during the semester, depending upon which work of literature we are reading). Since you will be given a reading schedule before we read each book, you are expected to keep up with that schedule, even in the case of absences or a snow day. Reading schedules will also be posted on the teacher website.

-Completion of homework will be assessed in the following ways- 1. Quizzes on the reading assignments (sometimes you will know about these quizzes ahead of time, but most often you will not, so be prepared for one every day!), 2. Written responses to journal prompts, and 3. Contributions to class discussions on the reading.

**Academic Integrity:**

-Will be expected of all students in this class. As stated in the TRHS Student Handbook, cheating in all forms is unacceptable and will result in serious consequences. You will all be required to sign a Plagiarism Contract and to adhere to the rules outlined in that contract.

**Classroom Behavior:**

-You must arrive to class on time with the necessary materials. Please be in your assigned seat and ready to go as soon as the bell rings. If you are going to be late to class you must come with a valid pass.

-Please do not eat during class.

-Use of electronic devices without teacher permission is strictly prohibited (cell phones, I-pods, etc.). Such devices provide a distraction to the student and it is just plain rude to use them during class. Therefore, all such devices must be put away before class begins.

-You are expected to show respect to the teacher and to the other students in the classroom at all times.

Students and their parents/guardians should carefully read the expectations and grading policy for Studies in American Literature and sign and **return just this page of the syllabus** as soon as possible.

I have read the expectations and grading policy for Mrs. Merriam’s Studies in American Literature course. I understand what is expected and what is necessary to achieve success in this course.

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**Student’s Signature**  **Date**

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**Student’s Printed Name**

\*Students, if you are schedule to have a Tutorial this semester, it would be very helpful to me if you would please indicate when that Tutorial will be (block and day) . *For example: C Block, Day 2*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I do not have Tutorial this semester.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I do have Tutorial this semester during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ block on Day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature**  Date

\*Parents/Guardians,

Please feel free to provide me with your contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number) so that I may contact you during the semester if necessary. Thank you.

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Name of parent/guardian

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E-mail address Phone number (cell or home)