**Junior Humanities 2014-2015 Myers/Morales**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Students at Skyline are emerging as members of their local, national, and global communities. The Humanities Department will collaborate to encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and communication skills as students explore the world’s cultures and become competent citizens**

Welcome to the American Studies block! We are excited to have you in our class and look forward to a great year ahead. This overview will provide you with a brief description of the course, its readings, and the expectations of our classroom. As will be the case throughout the year, we strongly encourage you to ask either of us any questions you may have.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: A two-credit course that integrates Language Arts and Social Studies skills and content, American Studies is designed to teach essential skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, presentation, research, and time management. Students will study American works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama as they learn about the American political system, culture, documents, events, and international relations from the time of European settlement to the present, with an emphasis on the 20th century.

**CONTENT**: Texts and novels may include but are not limited to the following:

*History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals Elements of Literature* (Holt)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*(Twain) *The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald)

*To Kill a Mockingbird (Lee) The Crucible* (Miller)

*Cat’s Cradle (Vonnegut) The Things They Carried (O’Brien)*

Selected Poetry: Including Anne Bradstreet, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Poe

Selected primary source materials will be read, discussed and analyzed on a regular basis.

Selected excerpts from fiction and non-fiction sources.

**MATERIALS**: Students should come to class on time each day with the following materials:

2 Blue or black ink pens Lined notebook paper Spiral Notebook or Binder

2 #2 pencils Student planner Composition book

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. Both the teacher and students will be courteous to others in the class at all times.

2. Come to class prepared! If you are working on a novel in class, please bring your copy of the novel!

3. Be mature and use acceptable language in class discussions and in writing assignments.

4. Participate in class by engaging in discussion, text interpretation, and listening activities.

While in the classroom, there are three guidelines for conduct that need to be observed. Of course, these golden rules are broad enough to admit a wide range of interpretation, but just let common sense and goodwill determine your behavior. **Respect yourself. Respect others. Respect the classroom environment.**

During class, we expect you to **conduct yourself as adults**—you may sharpen pencils and so on without permission, but only as long as you do so unobtrusively. When you need to use the restroom, simply get up, let one of us know you’re going, go quickly, and do not make it a constant habit. However, when class time is over, remember that we dismiss you, not the bell. You are expected to remain in your seats until dismissed. General misbehavior, such as excessive talking, rowdy behavior, etc. will be dealt with by a progressive process including warnings, parental contact, and administration referral. When making your decisions, be smart, and make good choices. ***You may do (almost) anything you want in this class as long as it does not cause a problem for anyone else.***

**TARDIES:**  There are no excuses for tardies. 1st offense = warning; 2nd offense = after school detention; 3rd offense = referral to administration. In addition, tardies will be reflected in students’ participation grades.

**LATE WORK:**

**Late work will result in a deduction of 50%.**  No work will be accepted after the end of the unit during which the homework was to be completed.

**The policy of late assignments only pertains to “process” work.** Projects, essays or other “culminating” work is due on the assigned date—no exceptions. This means that even if you are not at school the day the assignment is due, you must make arrangements to get it to me (even if it is simply via email) on that day. If not, it will be considered late. All major assignments are due at the beginning of the period on the day they are assigned. This includes binding, labeling, etc. Any culminating projects that are turned in late will receive a penalty of one letter grade per day for each day the assignment is late. After five school days they will not be accepted. Only students whose absence is excused or school-related will be able to make up reading quizzes or discussions.

**ABSENT WORK:**

Students will be allotted one (1) additional day on assignments per each day of school missed. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case to case basis. It is the student’s responsibility to check teacher websites daily both when in-class and absent.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**:

1. Honesty in all work is expected at all times.

2. You are expected to cite any ideas and phrases that are not your own.

3. Any form of cheating (see below) is a serious offense, and consequences will follow Student Handbook procedures.

a. **Plagiarizing**: stealing any part of another person’s work and submitting it as ones’ own.

b. **Distribution**: sharing class assignments or test information in either written or verbal form to another student without teacher permission.

c. **Unauthorized Collaboration**: working with others without teacher permission on assignments that will be submitted for an individual’s grade. This applies to in-class or take-home assignments, projects, or quizzes/tests.

d. **Collusion**: allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another student. Collusion also includes the use or sharing of identical or highly-similar passages of one’s own work or the work of another.

e. **Technology Malpractice**: any misuse of private or public technology to obtain an academic advantage, including infractions of the school technology user agreement, cell phone messaging, or picture transmission.

**GRADING**: Students will receive separate grades in Language Arts and Social Studies. However, some culminating projects and written work will be entered in both grade books.

A 93-100 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66

A- 90-92 B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62

B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69 F below 60

**1st Semester: 2nd Semester**

Culminating: 45% Culminating: 35%

Process: 30% Process: 25%

Participation: 15% Junior Project: 15%

Final: 10% Participation: 15%

Final: 10%

**COMMUNICATION:** You are always welcome to e-mail us; however, please keep in mind…

1. Your emails must have appropriate spelling/grammar and include a relevant subject, your name, and block.

2. If you need help on an assignment, you must e-mail us at least 24 hours before the due date. Otherwise, you will not get an answer in time.

3. You will always get a response when you e-mail us…even if it is just “Thanks” or “Got it.” If you do not receive a response, we did not receive your e-mail, so see us ASAP.

4. If you’re not at school, we’re probably not either. Please don’t email us at night expecting a reply before class the next day.

5. As this is a junior level class, we strive for self-advocacy. While parent emails are always welcome, students are expected to bring concerns/questions to their teachers prior to parent contact.

**TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION:**

1. Documents from our websites are expected to be accessed and printed at home.

2. Per school policy, you are allowed to print up to 30 pages per month from a school computer.

3. You may **NOT** use cell phones, iPods/music players, or pretty much anything else with an on/off switch (aside from computers and calculators, when necessary) in class UNLESS YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL PERMISSION FROM YOUR TEACHER. They should be turned off and put away. If you use any such devices during class, we will confiscate them and hold them for the remainder of the day. In the case of repeated instances, we will confiscate them and turn them into the office and you will receive a detention and your parents will be called.

**PLAGIARISM/CHEATING**

**Academic Integrity/Honesty Policy:**

Academic integrity speaks to a student’s commitment and responsibility to pursue scholarship openly and honestly. It respects the concept that *learning* is the primary purpose of education, secondary to grades and credits.

Academic dishonesty is defined as any action or attended action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other student.

A student shall not attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework (tests, quizzes, assignments, discs, projects, essays) in a manner other than defined as acceptable by each instructor.

Academic Integrity violations are tracked throughout a student’s entire high school career (grades 9 – 12).

Academic Integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

· **Plagiarizing** or submitting any part of another person’s work as representing ones’ own scholarship

· **Distribution/sharing of class assignments or test information** in either written or verbal form to another student without teacher permission

· **Unauthorized Collaboration** – working with others without the specific permission of the instructor on assignments that will be submitted for an individual’s grade. This applies to in-class or take-home assignments/homework, projects, tests, or labs.

· **Collusion** – supporting the lack of integrity/honesty by another student, as in allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another. Collusion also includes the use or sharing of identical or highly similar passages of one’s own work, or the work of another, unless specifically authorized by the teacher.

· **Technology Malpractice** – any misuse or abuse of private or public technology in relation to grades or in acquiring an academic advantage, including infractions of the school technology user agreement, language translation websites, cell phone messaging or picture transmission.

***I have read the Academic Integrity/Honest Policy. I understand and agree to honor it in content and in spirit.***

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**Student Name Signature Date**

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**Parent/Guardian Name Signature Date**

**AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTION/POLICY SIGNATURE**

**Parent/Guardian Email:**

**Please send an email to Ms. Morales and Mr. Myers with your student’s full name AND class period in the SUBJECT LINE *(Example: Fernando Rodney; 5th)***

**Additionally, please include any information we need to know in order to best serve your son/daughter. This is a great opportunity to let us know your student’s strengths, weaknesses, and any concerns you might have about the upcoming school year.**

**Student Email:**

**Please send a blank e-mail to Ms. Morales and Mr. Myers with your full name AND class period in the SUBJECT LINE *(Example: Russell Wilson; 1st)***

I have read the course description and course policies. I have sent a blank email to Ms. Morales and Mr. Myers. If I have questions, I will contact the teacher. I understand that in order to be successful in this course, I must complete all required work, attend class regularly, and maintain a respectful attitude towards everyone in the course.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the course description and policies with my student. I have sent a blank email to Ms. Morales and Mr. Myers. I understand that I may contact the teacher at any time if I have questions concerning this course description.

Parent/Guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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