College Prep: Contemporary Literature Survey

Syllabus

Wausaukee High School
Ms. Martens
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Overview: This class will provide the students with both an independent and group analysis of various pieces of literature from the last 70 years. The course will cover multiple genres: novels, shorts stories, essays, poetry, and drama. We will use the literature as springboards for discussions, blogs, oral presentations, group projects, and essays.

Objective: To expose the college bound student to quality literature in order to provoke thought and intellectual discussion. To help the student master their reading analysis and writing skills so that they may meet college with success.

Novels that may be covered (copies will be provided):
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Sold by Patricia McCormick
The Things they Carried by Tim O'Brien
A Land of a Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
King of the Mild Frontier by Chris Crutcher
Snow Falling on Cedars By David Guterson
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time By Mark Haddon
Kindred by Octavia Butler
Tuesday’s With Morrie by Mitch Albom

Websites that will be used often:
www.noredink.com
www.readtheory.org
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
http://www.uen.org/7-12interactives/lang_arts.shtml
http://chompchomp.com/menu.htm
Grading Scale:
This course will use the Wausaukee High School’s grading scale. Grades will be determined by total points (see attached grading policy, which is also in the handbook).

Formative Assessments (assisted): 20% of final grade
Summative Assessments (not assisted) 80% of final grade

One retake per summative assessment per semester is permitted. The retake may not be the same assessment. If the summative assessment is an essay, students who request a retake of an essay summative assessment will be asked to write a new essay based on a different topic of teacher’s choice.

Tasks to Expect:
reading journals (quick writes)
active reading
Cornell Note Taking
Literature Circle Tasks
grammar practice
estuys

Tools You will Need:

notebook
highlighters
da apprehends
Post-it flags
BYOD is welcome in this course

Late Work Policy: Due dates and deadlines will always be important in one’s life. Assignments are due on the specified dates or provided time spans. The homework will always relate to what is going on in the classroom and most often will dictate the flow of the classroom; it is important.

If the assignment is late beyond the final due date (I may have a time span in which work can be turned in), the teacher will deduct 10% each day the assignment is late. “Late” means that an assignment was not turned in by the end of the school day on which it was due.
If the late assignment is not turned in within two weeks of the original due date, the student receive a “0” for that assignment.

Plagiarism Policy: Students who commit plagiarism or are dishonest about their work in any other way (cheating) will receive a zero on the assignment (an option to re-write will be up to the teacher) and be referred to Mr. Deschane. Please note that this is also a violation of the Activity Code of Wausaukee School District

Unit 1: Individual and Identity
Being an active reader (tips)
“The Danger of a Single Story” TedTalks
  video
  notes (Cornell Note-taking technique)
  discussion
  activity
Lit Term focus: Theme
Reading: “No Name Woman”, “I am nobody” (Dickinson), “By Any Other Name”, “Theme for English B” Langston Hughes, “Boys and Girls” by Alice Munro
Lit. Circle Novels: Gatsby, Incident, Snow Falling
  Lit circle schedule, tasks, and group presentations
film: The Great Gatsby
Writing: The sentence (structure)
noredink.com
Book review response paper (60 pts)
novel analysis (100 pts)

Unit 2: The Individual, Conflict, and our World
Thoreau’s Self-Reliance essay
  notes
  video
Lit Term focus: Conflict (shapes characters)
Lit Circle novels: Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer and The Things they Carried by Tim O’Brien
film: Into the Wild
  Lit Circle tasks and group presentations
Writing: Paragraph focus
  noredink.com
Scholarship Admission Essay ( prompts will be provided)
Compare & Contrast Essay
Unit 3: Culture Shapes Us
Lit Term Focus: Character and character motivation

notes
quick writes
Lit. Circle novels: Sold, Thousand Splendid Suns, and Kindred by Octavia Butler
Lit Circle tasks and group presentations
Interview a family member
Personal Narrative: Family Story

Unit 4: Coming to Terms (Reflections)
Reading: “Choices” by Nikki Giovanni, “Who Said We all Have to Talk Alike” by Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel,
Class novel: King of the Mild Frontier by Chris Crutcher and Tuesday’s with Morrie by Mitch Albom
Writing: analysis of poetry or a compare/contrast
identifying writing style: imitate a poem
analyzing poetry: searching for common themes

Unit 5: American Drama: “A Streetcar Named Desire” by Tennessee Williams