

## **HUMANITIES II**

American Literature  
2017-2018

### **TEACHER INFORMATION**

Jessica Combest  
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Planning: 4th period, BHS pod (Semester 1)  
1st period, BHS pod (Semester 2)  
Advisement: Room 3500, VPA  
Website: <http://jcombestcvhs.weebly.com/>

Please contact me via email only. All emails will be returned within 48 hours (with the exception of weekends and holidays).

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

#### ***What is Humanities?***

The term “Humanities” is a blanket under which multiple disciplines fall including literature, history, philosophy, music, and art. Humanities can be described as the study of how people process and document the human experience within these disciplines. This class primarily focuses on Humanities through an English lens. Through exploration of literature and language we will gain sympathy for the feelings and experiences of others and an understanding of the fundamental driving forces of human culture and consciousness. We will constantly ask ourselves, “*What does it mean to be human?*”

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The following items should be with you daily:

- A dedicated binder **or** folder for English (whatever works best organizationally for you)
- Plenty of loose leaf paper
- Black and blue pens
- Composition book

The following supplies will not be used daily but may still be required from time to time:

- Douglas county library card
- Post-it notes
- Highlighters
- Markers/colored pencils/crayons

### **GRADING POLICIES**

#### **Grading Scale**

Final grades are based on the following scale:

A→ 100-90; B→ 89-80; C→ 79-70; D→ 69-60; F→ 59-0

Grades are automatically rounded. Therefore a 69.5 will be rounded to a 70 percent; a 69.4 will remain a 69.4.

#### **Grading Categories**

The weighted grading categories for English are as follows:

- Independent reading -- 10%
- Articles of the week -- 10%
- Tests, quizzes, projects -- 20%
- Written assessments (essays, papers, journals) -- 30%
- Behavior/Engagement (attendance, tardiness, participation, on-task behavior) -- 30%

- For students to be successful in Humanities II, they must be present both physically and intellectually. A Behavior/Engagement grade will be entered as a weekly shared grade for both English and Social Studies. This grade can be affected by attendance, tardiness, participation, and on-task behavior. Students can recover lost points in various ways:
  - Excused absences must demonstrate understanding of missed material
  - Unexcused absences must attend lunch detention to complete missed work

### **Academic Integrity**

Students should exhibit honesty and integrity. If there is ever any doubt about whether your use is appropriate for the class, please ask. Better safe than sorry with this policy. *Proof of dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action.*

### **Late Work**

Homework is given with the intent of preparing you for the next day's lesson. You cannot possibly be prepared and fully participatory if you haven't done the work. **Therefore, I do not accept late work.**

### **Redo Policy**

On *most* assignments that are turned in ON TIME, students will have the opportunity to redo the assignment for a higher grade. There is no limit to the amount of times an assignment may be redone. However, no redo conferences will be scheduled the last week of a semester. The following are the steps to redo work:

1. Schedule a conference with Mrs. Combest to go over the assignment during Advisement
2. Work on the assignment and make the corrections that are needed within one week of the conference
3. **TURN ASSIGNMENT IN DURING ADVISEMENT.** Redone assignments will not be taken outside of this time

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES**

### **Self-Advocacy**

Students, if you have any questions or problems—about anything—please, just come talk to me. Take your future into your own hands. Monitor your grades, ask for clarification, and speak up for yourself.

### **Advisement**

While the temptation to socialize is great, Advisement is a time built into our school schedule to allow students the opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss concerns. It is on you to make the most of that time.

### **Attendance**

It is to your benefit to attend school daily! No amount of make-up work or note copying can compensate for the class discussion and peer activity that you miss when absent. However, some absences are unavoidable. It is the student's responsibility to seek out missed work. Start by looking at my class website.

### **Participation**

In order to create a community, students are expected to be active participants in classroom happenings daily. We will get to know each other through discussion and collaboration. Students will receive participation points for their contribution to class, preparedness, and attitude.

### **Student Conduct**

The Castle View community does not tolerate hateful words, phrases, or gestures. Our goal is to create an environment where students feel free to express themselves, share opinions, and openly discuss issues free from fear of ridicule, chastisement, or disparagement from their peers. Use of inappropriate words, phrases, or gestures will not be tolerated.

## Electronic Devices

Mr. Chapman and I have an “out of sight” policy. Basically, if we can see it (and you’re not supposed to have it), we will take it. If you are an infrequent offender, we’ll likely just hold onto it until the end of the period. If it becomes a problem, it will go to the front office and a referral for defiance will be written.

## First 15

Upon entering the classroom, students are expected to complete the “First 15” assignment while Mrs. Combest takes attendance and prepares for class. Students should ALWAYS keep the current class book of study or their independent reading book in their backpack. You may be docked Behavior/Engagement points if you are unprepared to read during First 15 (should that be the assignment). You will not be excused to your locker to retrieve your book.

## LITERATURE STUDIES

### Whole-class Literature Study

Each term we will read a book or play together as a whole class. Students are expected to read assigned chapters outside of class and come prepared to discuss and engage in related activities.

Term 1: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Term 2: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Term 3: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Term 4: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien

All books are approved by Douglas County School Board. If there are any questions or objections, please contact me and we will determine an alternative text if necessary.

### Independent Reading

Each semester, in addition to our whole-class book studies, students will be responsible for reading three books of their choosing. Independent book study makes up 10 % of the class grade. As Humanities II English is an American literature course, the chosen books should fall in the canon of American literature. Students must demonstrate their learning with logs, reflections, and conferencing with Mrs. Combest. **Please note** that students are NOT required to purchase these books; all books can be checked out from the CV or Douglas county libraries (which is why a library card is one of the required materials for the course).

Listed below are works that are widely considered to be canonical American literature. At least four of your chosen books must come from this list. If you decide to read a book that is not on this list, you must see Mrs. Combest for approval. Most of the books below have been approved by the Douglas County School Board; the few that are not approved are indicated with an asterisk (\*\*).

1. *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee
2. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
3. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie\*\*
4. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
5. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
6. *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather\*\*
7. *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
8. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
9. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
10. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane\*\*

11. *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris
12. *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass\*\*
13. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
14. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
15. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
16. *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
17. *A Farewell to Arms* Ernest Hemingway
18. *Hiroshima* by Jon Hersey
19. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
20. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs\*\*
21. *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac\*\*
22. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey
23. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
24. *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
25. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
26. *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
27. *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Meyers
28. *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
29. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
30. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
31. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
32. *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor
33. *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
34. *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis\*\*
35. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
36. *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
37. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
38. *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
39. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
40. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe
41. *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
42. *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau
43. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
44. *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
45. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
46. *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
47. *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman
48. *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
49. *All the President's Men* Woodward and Bernstein
50. *Native Son* by Richard Wright

## **STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT**

By remaining in this class, students and parents acknowledge that they understand and agree to the policies outlined in this syllabus.