



PROVISO MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

English II
American Literature
Ms. Mason
Room 321
emason@pths209.org

Course Description:

The objectives of this course include developing students understanding of the history and cultural progress of our country through literature, conveying the perceptions and experiences of primarily American authors.

Students will be able to:

- Analyze and contextualize the evolution of American culture through literature reflective of American literary periods from the Puritan era through modern times by exploring the customs and norms of each period as revealed through unique perspectives from a variety of authors;
- Improve their analytical skills by understanding rhetorical strategies: that form is related to function, that meaningful writing requires authors to choose the most effective voice and genre according to their purpose and audience;
- Ascertain an author's purpose and flesh out the specific strategies and techniques the author employs to achieve accomplishment, and understand that effective writing (including fiction) conveys an argument;
- Express maturity in their own writing through a variety of sentence structures and syntactical methods as well as through sophisticated diction

Texts/Themes:

- 1.) The Scarlet Letter- Nathaniel Hawthorne (Moral Responsibility)
- 2.) Julius Caesar- William Shakespeare (Misuse of Power)
- 3.) The Great Gatsby- F. Scott Fitzgerald (Myth of the American Dream)
- 4.) Their Eyes were Watching God- Zora Neale Hurston (Social Justice: Race in America)
- 5.) The Book of Unknown Americans- Cristina Henriquez (Immigration and Self –Discovery/Freedom)

Classroom Guidelines:

Respect

Respect yourself
Respect others
Respect this place

Rules

All classroom rules coincide with those of Proviso Math and Science Academy. Refusal to obey these rules will draw the appropriate consequences.

Attendance

A major part of your grade depends on attendance. Without being present in class, you will be unable to obtain and learn the material needed to receive a passing grade. Being present in class, along with completing the work successfully, will ensure an excellent grade in class.

Tardiness to Class

Being on time to class is considered to be of the utmost importance and your punctuality is a sign of respect. Students should be in their seats, the table in front of them cleared, with necessary class materials ready, at the time class is scheduled to begin. With one tardy a warning will be given and for every tardy after, students will receive a detention.

Preparation

You are considered prepared for class if you are in the classroom at the start of class with your assigned homework completed. Additionally, you must bring your classroom materials daily, including your writing journal, texts, homework, and any other material needed for class. You may not leave the classroom to retrieve any of your materials from a locker.

Supply List

Pens/pencils (Red, blue or black)
Writing journal (composition notebook)
Folder
Yellow highlighter
Dictionary
Notebook

Cheating

Cheating means “a deception for the profit of yourself.” Therefore, taking answers from others, whether the answers are offered or not, is cheating and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism is defined as unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work. At any time, plagiarized work will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and possible disciplinary actions taken by the school.

Instructional Philosophy:

Students need to be engaged and actively involved in their own growth and learning. Building relationships and increasing motivation is a critical aspect of that process. Building on a student’s strengths is one way to do this. Helping students understand and celebrate their own ability creates an environment where the student feels valued and begins to feel a sense of ownership in their education. Celebrating each child’s diversity in terms of culture and ability allows students to value and feel good about their special gifts while developing an appreciation for and acceptance of differences in others.

Major Projects:

Each unit will culminate in a final project or paper that demonstrates student understanding of concepts and content as well as progression towards mastery of included literacy skills.

Re-Engagement Guidelines:

Struggling students are encouraged to make after school appointments with me for additional instruction. They are also encouraged to take advantage of tutoring. Every effort will be made to get struggling students back on track.

Instructional Delivery:

Students will be engaged in instruction through a combination of direct instruction and small cooperative learning groups. Students will have the opportunity to have guided practice and independent practice while working towards mastery of literacy skills.

Methods of Assessments:

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and mastery of literacy skills through a variety of assessments including whole class and small group discussions (both formal and informal), journaling, writing assignments, and quizzes. **All final drafts of major written assignments are to be typed or word-processed and must adhere to the essay format (MLA) unless otherwise specified.** Each assignment, project, quiz, and paper will be counted by points. Your grade for each individual assignment, project or exam will be based on the percentage of points achieved out of the total possible. The grading scale is as follows:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	PERCENTAGE	GRADE	PERCENTAGE	GRADE
100	A+	89	B+	78	C	0-69	F
99	A+	88	B	77	C-		
98	A+	87	B	76	C-		
97	A	86	B	75	D+		
96	A	85	B-	74	D+		
95	A	84	B-	73	D		
94	A-	83	C+	72	D		
93	A-	82	C+	71	D-		
92	A	81	C+	70	D-		
91	B+	80	C				
90	B+	79	C				

In addition, we will use a weighted grading scale for all assignments:

Skills Practice	20%
Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	40%
Participation	10%

Using PowerSchool, students and parents can view and monitor student attendance, grades, and academic performance. Each parent or guardian can register for PowerSchool online at <http://www.pths209.org/District/NF/Parents/ParentRegform.asp>. Parents will then be issued a username and password that will allow them to view their students' information.

Make-up Policy:

When students have an excused absence, it is their responsibility to find out what assignments they have missed from classmates or myself. Students are encouraged (when possible) to contact me via e-mail at emason@pths209.org while they are out to begin work on what they are missing in class so they may turn it in as soon as they return to class. The number of days with an excused absence will determine how many days they have to make-up the missed assignments. Late assignments while a student is in class or has an unexcused absence **WILL NOT** be accepted; long term assignments such as major projects will receive a 10% deduction everyday the assignment or project is late.

Remind:

All students are required to sign up for “REMIND.” You will be given one handout. Follow the instructions on the sheet to sign up for texts or emails from me. This system will be used for alerts and reminders:

- Assignment changes
- Questions/Ideas
- Instructions
- Notifications
- Book or material needs

Please note that using REMIND to communicate with me does NOT replace Emailing. Email will most likely receive a faster response.

Contact Information:

PMSA 708-338-4141

E-mail address: emason@pths209.org