Mercermonster’s

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE SYLLABUS

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Grading scale: Classwork/Homework 15%

 Quizzess 20%

 Tests 20%

 Writing 20%

 Projects 25%

**Late work**: Assignments are due by the stated deadline. Assignments turned in after the deadline earn a 70, IF they are turned in by the next class period. No late assignments will be accepted more than one period after the deadline.

**Tardies**: Students get three free tardies. On the fourth they will be assigned *THE WORLD’S WORST DETENTION*!!! Students must have a pass to enter the class after the bell rings.

**Bathroom passes**: Students will be issued a card containing four bathroom passes per nine weeks. See card for more details. Card must be in hand to be valid. Failure to present card will result in *THE WORLD’S WORST DETENTION*!!!

**Reading**: Students will read 8 books over the course of the year. For 7 of them, students will present oral book reports called Book Talks. For the 8th they will participate in literature circles. For book talks, Mercer will choose the genre of book and students will choose content. For lit circles, Mercer will choose American lit classics and students will maintain a lit circle journal.

**Writing**: Students will complete a variety of writing assignments including persuasive and creative writing.

**Research**: Students will learn MLA research style and discover the historical backdrops that complement the literature we study. Research will serve as the foundation for the final project.

**Final project**: Students will amalgamate their research, reading, and film analysis into a screenplay set in an American literary era. They will strive to capture the zeitgeist of that era, displaying their knowledge of the literature, people, clothing, values, inventions, science, events, politics and pastimes that made it unique.

Course content includes but is not limited to the following:

* Novels: *The Great Gatsby, Catcher in the Rye, The Awakening, Frederick Douglass, The Crucible*
* Selections from the textbook that cover the American literature canon
* Study of figurative language and the mechanics of standard English
* Film analysis with an eye toward grasping how an author or director captures the zeitgeist of an era. Films may include excerpts from *Peggy Sue Got Married, Pleasantville, Last of the Mohicans, Philadelphia, Gone with the Wind, Dances with Wolves, Titanic, The Color Purple, Swing Shift, Dead Poets Society*

