



American Literature & Language Arts
Billings Central Catholic High School
Mr. Fairbanks

Introduction

Junior year provides a unique opportunity for you to engage in a program of American Studies. Our nation's history, culture, literature and art have never occurred independently of one another, so why would we teach them that way? In this class you will delve into the multifaceted nature of the American cultural experience through a study of its literature and its history while developing your English Language Arts (ELA) skills.

Course Objectives

Through participation in this course, students will:

- Develop a deeper appreciation of literature
- Augment their lexicons
- Demonstrate proficiency in writing arguments with evidence-based analysis and reasoning
- Develop a creative writing portfolio
- Develop and practice skills in public speaking
- Prepare for standardized testing

The Student's Responsibilities

- **Show up** – When you walk through the door, you need to have the students' armor (iPad, stylus, keyboard, notebook, pen, pencil, etc.), and you need to be ON TIME.
- **Participate, Participate, Participate** – Wake up, strap in, and hang on for the ride. When you are in room 220, you need to be on your toes and prepared to participate in class discussions, activities, and class notes.
- **Don't blame it on the dog** – Late work will not be accepted without a hand-written, signed, and phone-numbered letter from your parents outlining an incredibly good excuse.
- **Cheating is punishable by burning at the stake** – Not literally, but you get the point.
- **No social loafing** – We will have numerous group projects assigned throughout the year. When you are a part of a group you need to act as if you are the biggest over-achiever there. Don't let others do the work for you!
- **Make arrangements** – If you are absent during a test, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to take the test *on the day after you return or during an agreed upon time*. If you have missed some days, but you are in class the day before the test you will be expected to take the test on the assigned test day.
- **Technology: Use it properly or lose it promptly** – Your iPads are subject to the Student Handbook Agreement, *and they must be used for the right classroom purposes*. Phones will not be allowed during class time since the contents of your screen cannot easily be determined. If you distract yourself by inappropriately using your technology during class time, prepare to Tweet @StudentPoorDecision, #Fairbanks took my gear and won't give it back, #total bummer, because *your technology will be taken and you will earn LUNCH DETENTION!*

Discipline Clause

- **Don't be a rebel without a cause!** – Any infringements upon the rules of order or improper use of technology will result in one of the following (dependent upon your instructor's disposition and level of annoyance):
 - Push-Ups
 - After School Labor Crew
 - Lunch Detentions

World Class Experience

As a student in this class and as your instructor, we will demonstrate a World Class character through Faith, Family Spirit, and Academic Excellence. We will show our Faith through respectful treatment of one another, integrity and honesty in our work, and living the teachings of a Christ-centered discipleship. We will show our Family Spirit through communication, empathy, and collective accountability. We will show our Academic Excellence through passion for being life-long learners, active participation in the learning experience, and maintaining high expectations of others and ourselves.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones WILL NOT be allowed during class time unless your instructor has allowed it for an emergency use. Cell phones must be placed in the storage area in class for the duration of class on silent mode.

Accept-Respect-Include Policy

As part of a caring, faith-based classroom, students will follow a policy of acceptance, respect and inclusion in regard to all of their classmates. Students must acknowledge that everyone is welcome in this classroom regardless of their circumstances and background. Students will refrain from comments/jokes/slang or any other communication that is personal in nature or intended to make others uncomfortable in the classroom. Students will work cooperatively with any and all students in this class.

Website: <https://shanefairbanks.com>

Course Outline

***The following is a basic outline of the course for the year**

****Vocabulary, Literary Terms, and ACT preparation exercises will be included throughout the year.**

FALL SEMESTER

Early American Literature

- Native American and Western Mythology
- First Encounter
- Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

Crash Course in Literary Analysis

- George Orwell's *1984*

Revolutionary Reasoning: The Enlightenment

- Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Thomas Paine
- Poetry of Phillis Wheatley

Creative Writing & Public Speaking Unit

- Narrative, poetry, journalistic, and screenplay writing
- Scene Descriptions
- Character Development
- Impromptu Speaking
- Original Oratory

America's Manifest Destiny

- Michael Punke's *The Revenant*
- Cherokee Responses to Removal
- Poetry of Dickinson & Thoreau

Battle Hymn of the Republic

- Regionalist and Naturalist Writers – Poe, Dickinson, Clemens, Bierce, London, Crane, Whitman, Lincoln
- Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*

SPRING SEMESTER

Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Dystopian Visions of the Modern World

- Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One*

The World at War

- World War I Poetry
- WWI Short Stories

Roaring Culture

- F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*
- Modern Poetry

The Nightmare: World War II & the Holocaust

- Mark Sullivan's *Beneath a Scarlett Sky*

The Modern World

- Contemporary Short Fiction
- J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*