

Course Syllabus: English 1302 Composition and Literature

Course description: This course consists of reading, understanding, analyzing, and writing over various selections from American Literature. It is intended that the selections roughly parallel the time periods in U.S. History that would be covered in History 1302, so that the material from one course might reinforce the other, and the student might see a connection between the two. The scope of the readings will be from the post Civil War period through the Vietnam War era.

Prerequisites: Passing score on the THEA test.

Course requirements: Students will be required to read, analyze, discuss, and write over assigned selections. Writing assignments will range from simple journal entries to interpretive short-answer questions to analytical essays. They will be graded based on rubrics where points are awarded or deducted based on mechanical skills, organizational ability, evidence of logical thinking, and citation of outside sources. Students will be expected to listen and contribute to class discussions and improve their oral and written communication skills through individual or group presentations.

Summary of Assignments and Activities:

1. The American West, Past and Present: the Cowboy Code and philosophy; Mark Twain; Willa Cather; Cormac McCarthy's All the Pretty Horses. Assignments will include a book report/analytical essay over the novel, and shorter written assignments from the other writings.
2. The Women's Movement and Women's Literature: speeches and writings from the Women's Suffrage movement; Emily Dickinson and others. Assignments will include poetry interpretation, essays on themes covered, and student-created writing of similar nature to what was studied.
3. The Rise of Urbanism and Realism: The growth of industries and cities in the latter 19th century; change in literature from Romanticism to Realism; sample readings from authors such as Sandburg, Robinson, Fitzgerald, Hughes, Eliot, etc. Assignments will include short-answer essays.
4. 20th Century: Samples of writings from Hemingway, Faulkner, Steinbeck, and others that reflect the changing social history of the 20th century.
5. The Literature of War: War depicted in various poems, short stories, and novels. Students will read, analyze and write an essay/research paper based on the Vietnam War and Tim O'Brien's The Things they Carried.
6. Book reports: For concurrent classes, such as this one at Crane High School, students are expected to read and report on one new book each six weeks in addition to regular class assignments.

Grading: The majority of the semester grade (90%) will come from written essays and papers over the material covered. Each assignment will have a rubric which awards or deducts points based on mechanics and style. The remaining 10% will come from daily writings such as journal entries, short descriptions, etc. The due date for each assignment will be posted enough in advance that the student will have adequate time to complete it. Late papers will lose ten points per day and after five days will not be accepted. The timing and coverage of some units will be adjusted as needed for TAKS preparation and testing and for other school-release times that apply to high school. Letter grades will be determined from these guidelines:

90-100= A

80-89= B

70-79= C

60-69=D (For the concurrent classes, any grade below a 70 is considered failing for high school credit.)

Below 60= F (For college credit)

Plagiarism, or copying another's work or words without giving credit, is a serious offense and the student will lose credit for that assignment if he has plagiarized. When in doubt, always cite your source.

Conduct and behavior: Even though this is a college level class, students should remember that they are still in a high school and are expected to follow the student handbook.

English 1302 Composition and Literature learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Read, analyze and recognize characteristics of fiction, poetry, and drama and identify essential details and facts in these works.
2. Demonstrate the ability to read assigned texts closely, develop interpretational analyses of these texts, and clearly articulate the findings of these critical interpretational analyses.
3. Write analytical papers on one or more literary works in a given genre or genres.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of standard terminology to describe genres.
5. Summarize the essential elements of each genre and each literary selection in standard literary terminology.
6. Organize library research materials and other resources and write a literary research project or paper which demonstrates the proper use of quotations, citations, and a list of works cited.

7. Demonstrate continuing mastery of conventional English.
8. Articulate ideas in well-organized, lucid prose that exhibits the application of the aforementioned skills.

Contact information: Students may contact me at Crane High School (432-558-1030) during the school day or on my cell phone (432-661-9324) during non- school hours. My e-mail address is rifera@craneisd.com.