Multicultural Literature and Composition Syllabus

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Welcome to Multicultural Lit! I hope you’re looking forward to the progress we’re going to make in class this semester. Please acquaint yourself with this syllabus, as you will be responsible for all the information on it.

**Course Objectives/Description:**

 The purpose of this course is to help build critical thinking skills in reading and writing that can lead to success in college-level work, including Advanced Placement courses.

**Materials:**

There will be a class set of the books and novels, but students can also access them online. The links are on my personal website through Canvas. The course load will be supplemented with other teacher-provided literatures.

You are in charge of bringing and taking care of the following things to class EVERY day:

1. A 1.5-2” HARD COVER, 3 ring binder to hold everything, along with FOUR (4) POCKETLESS dividers. The names on the tabs should be, “*Warm-ups*”, “*Classwork*”, “*Notes*”, and “*Vocabulary*”, in that order. The work should go *behind* said dividers, not in front.

1. College ruled loose leaf paper (no spiral bound or composition notebooks!)
2. Pens (standard blue or black ink) AND pencils
3. Classwork/homework, etc.

**Class Procedures: Classroom Rules:**

* BE RESPECTFUL!! You must give respect to get it!
* BE ON TIME!! If you are late, you will be required to show a legal pass from another teacher or a tardy slip in order to be admitted into class.
* BE PREPARED!! If you do not have a writing utensil or paper, you must borrow from a fellow student. It is not my responsibility to make sure you have something with which or on which to write!
* Warm-ups start EVERY class. Come in and do them.
* NO ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT! There will be times when you will be allowed to use your smart phones for research (finding out on Facebook what your ex-girlfriend/boyfriend did the weekend before is NOT research), but otherwise should be put away (Cell Block, pocket, backpack) and silent. Consequences will follow school procedures. See cell phone policy.
* Passes will not be given in the first 15 or last 15 minutes of class. Should you need to go to the restroom, please do not ask me when I am instructing. I give out “Bathroom Coupons” for students to use when they need to use the restroom. They get 10 per semester, and after they run out or they lose them, they get no more, so they should be used wisely.
* ONLY DRINKS WITH THREADED CAPS will be allowed in my room. Food is allowed as long as there’s NO trash left on my floor!
* CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES! “In loco parentis” means I am responsible for your health and safety, NOT your trash!
* Think carefully about your choice of language. Four and five letter expletives will NOT be tolerated. If you would not say it in front of your grandmother or your pastor, do NOT say it in front of me. This falls under rule number one.
* If you prefer to write in pencil and it breaks, please ask to sharpen it. Do not just interrupt the class. Also, if you are writing in pencil, please make sure it is dark enough to read.
* If you prefer to write in pen, it is to be in **blue or black ink only.** Pink, purple, green, red, etc. will NOT be accepted!

**Assessments:**

 Tests, quizzes, guided reading questions, and/or other assessments will be given after each selection, section, or unit. Tests and quizzes may come in any form the teacher deems most appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, extended response, or essay. I will make my best effort to have grades updated every week. They can be viewed on your Infinite Campus by typing in your username and password.

Students will be required to begin, maintain, and complete an Assessment Portfolio (binder). This portfolio is created at the beginning of the semester and maintained throughout. Students will be expected to use their portfolio to provide evidence that they have met specific goals and standards. These will be checked every quarter.

I give ample extra credit; therefore, **I do not accept "extras" as extra credit**, such as newspaper clippings or writing assignments. I offer extra credit through the cell phone plan (see below), unused bathroom coupons, and study guides. Total, students are given the opportunity to receive about 120+ extra credit points for a semester.

**Cell Phones:**

 I have, in the front of my room, what I call the "Cell Block", where students are required to put their phones during class time (unless otherwise instructed, say, for use in research). Cell phones can be a major distraction, and I do not believe in repeating myself when someone doesn't pay attention because of a "toy". The Cell Block is right next to my desk, so the phones will be under my watch throughout the class. Should the student elect to not put in their phone in the “Block” and the phone is used outside the rules of cell usage (looking up info, definitions, Kahoot, etc.), the consequences will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Students will be given an "extra credit ticket" every two weeks, which will be stamped every day that they put their cell phones in the Cell Block **for the period**. This gives the students the opportunity to receive up to 85 extra credit points for the semester, depending on inclement weather, absences, etc. **Should they lose the ticket or forget it, they will forfeit the extra credit for that two weeks/day.**

**Attendance/Absences:**

Your daily attendance is essential, as we have daily writing exercises and classwork. Your final grade will reflect this along with your participation. If you miss a day for an *excused* reason (a note is needed), I will have the work for you. The number of days you are absent is the same amount you get to make up any work (e.g. absent for 2 days, you have 2 days to make up any work). Any notes/journals given in class are your responsibility to get from a classmate. If you are late to class, you must have a pass to get in! This includes bus passes, tardy passes, or teacher passes. Please wait until the end of class or a break in the lesson to ask about anything you may have missed.

**Late/Missing Work:**

Every assignment you receive will have a due date. For regular assignments, the assignment will be due on the due date and ***NO LATER***. You can make up this work ONLY if you have an excused absence and can provide documentation (a note to the front office and a slip from the office to me) proving that. Work that was due to be handed in on the day of your absence will be handed in on THE DAY of your return. Work that is not handed in on the day of your return **will** **be considered late**. Late reports and projects that are assigned way in advance (even if you are absent on the due date) will result in a reduction in the grade.

**ANY LATE WORK IS 10 POINTS LOST PER DIEM! After day 5, it will not be accepted, and will go into what is called the “grade graveyard” and not able to be made up.**

**Warm Ups:**

The Warm Ups will be posted at the beginning of each class. It can be a quote, a poem, writing prompt, art work analysis, etc. You will be expected to put your analysis in your own words/thoughts, and respond to the writing prompts. These will be checked when notebook checks occur, about once a quarter (twice per semester).

**Assignments (homework, projects, etc.):**

Assignments will can be either electronic or hard copy, at the teacher’s discretion. If you are unable to turn in a paper digitally, it is your responsibility to bring me a hard copy, but only after all attempts have failed. If you have trouble accessing a computer or printer for any assignment, see me ASAP so we can resolve the issue. Waiting until the day an assignment is due and then letting me know you didn’t have a computer is **not** an acceptable excuse. I can be very accommodating IF you give me enough leeway. Also, I will not print up an assignment that is due for another class.

**NPHS ELA Summative Assessment Recovery Policy:**

In the event that a student fails a summative assessment with a 69 or below, the student will have an opportunity for recovery up to a 70 by following the listed steps:

* within 1 week of receiving the insufficient grade, the student will arrange at least 1 tutoring session with the teacher before or after school
* the student will then arrange for recovery of the summative assessment with the teacher before or after school, in which the student will be given an alternative assignment
* cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will result in an irrecoverable 0 as well as a parent contact.

**Infinite Campus:**

To comply with Paulding County policy, ALL of our classroom grades will be posted on the Infinite Campus website. There, you can find your grades at any time. Grades are posted on a semi-weekly basis. You should never be surprised by your grade as you can see what it is every day. It is your responsibility to remain informed. If you or your parents are having difficulty accessing Infinite Campus, please call the main office to get your information.

**Texts**

Throughout the semester, the following books will serve as our anchor texts for all reading, writing, activities, discussions, and formative and summative assessments.\*\*

* *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
* *Macbeth or Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
* Various short stories and informational texts

**\*\*Texts are subject to change based on the discretion of the teacher. You will be notified of any changes to the above list a few weeks in advance.**

**Movie permission form – please read and consider carefully!**

Throughout the semester, we will view movies, documentaries, and educational videos to enhance students’ understanding of the literary texts we read. Nothing shown will go beyond a PG-13 rating. Some scenes may be difficult for students to watch. For this reason, please review the list of POSSIBLE film selections below and indicate whether you give your child permission to view them in class. If you are unfamiliar with any of these films, or have suggestions, please don’t hesitate to contact me or conduct your own research. ***Upon signing this syllabus, you are confirming that it is accepted that your student will be shown these historical documentaries, films, etc. \*\*Note: List is subject to change according to availability, time, etc.\*\****

*Macbeth*

*Hamlet*

*Beowulf*

*A Raisin in the Sun*

*Other various films/shorts*

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any way. Work (published or not) that is copied either from a friend or from an outside source **(SPARKNOTES, CLIFFSNOTES, SHMOOP, ETC. ARE ALL VERY EASY TO RECOGNIZE)** will receive an automatic **zero**. Any work that is improperly cited **(yes, you must give credit to any source from which you take a direct quote or paraphrase)** will receive a **zero**, and you will be given **zero** chances to make it up, along with a parent contact.

**Disciplinary Action (in no particular order):**

1. A warning. This may be either verbal or nonverbal. You are old enough to know when to stop!
2. Call/email to parent.
3. Removal from class by an assistant principal.
4. A referral. Student Services will assign the appropriate punishment.

\*\*All disciplinary action is subject to change depending on the behavior\*\*

**Contact Information:**

 I am always willing to help students succeed! Therefore, I don’t accept excuses like “I didn’t understand,” or “I was confused.” It is your responsibility to ask for help. You can make an appointment with me to meet after school. My e-mail address is Bmaglione@paulding.k12.ga.us

**Let’s have an awesome semester!**

Carpe diem,

Please bring this syllabus home to share with your parent/guardian. When you both have read and understood the rules, please sign below stating that you will follow all rules this year. **PLEASE NOTE! This is also the movie permission form!** Bring this paper back to me for your first grade of the semester!

Student Name (print legibly) Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date