# Junior Humanities 2016-2017 Gai/Woldendorp

# American Studies

Welcome to the American Studies! We are happy to have you in our class and look forward to a great year ahead. This overview will provide you with a brief description of the course, its readings, and the expectations of our classroom. As will be the case throughout the year, we strongly encourage you to ask either of us any questions you may have.

**Course Description**: A two-credit course that integrates Language Arts and Social Studies skills and content, American Studies is designed to teach essential skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, presentation, research, and time management. Students will study American works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama as they learn about the American political system, culture, documents, events, and international relations from the time of European settlement to the present, with an emphasis on the 20th century.

Skyline’s Humanities Department is committed to team teaching and interdisciplinary work and study. It is our goal to integrate the two subjects—Social Studies and Language Arts—to create a deeper, more critical and balanced learning experience for your student in the social sciences. We understand that learning does not exist in the vacuum of specific subjects and believe that the best learning environment is one in which students and teachers bring diverse ideas, disciplines, and perspectives to enrich students’ understanding and the classroom experience as a whole. As such, the Skyline Humanities Department tries to integrate its curriculum as much as possible in both the block and split-block model of instruction. The result is that to get an accurate understanding of your student’s work and progress in both our classes, some assignments demonstrate learning in both subjects and consequently belong in both grade books on Family Access. The number of points entered in the two grade books might be different, depending on the discipline in which the assignment was the focus, as this would best reflect the student’s progress in each discipline. Teachers generally try to inform students when this will occur, and if there are any questions about a particular assignment students are encouraged to inquire. With this method, we believe both teachers and parents will be best able to track students’ progress and best understand their strengths and areas for growth.

**Expectations:** All students are expected to follow our three main rules at all times. These rules are **R**espect (for yourself, fellow students, and teachers), **A**ppreciation (for the work done by you, your fellow students, and your teachers) and **P**articipation (be actively involved in the learning process). If issues arise that affect a student’s work, that student should inform the teachers as soon as possible.

**Materials**: Students should come to class on time each day with the following materials:

2 Blue or black ink pens Lined notebook paper

2 #2 pencils Student planner

**Content**: Texts and novels may include but are not limited to the following:

*TCI History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals*

*American Literature* (Holt)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Twain)

*The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald)

*To Kill a Mockingbird* (Lee)

*The Crucible* (Miller)

*The Glass Castle* (Walls)

*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*

(Alexie)

Selected Poetry: Including Anne Bradstreet, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Edgar Allen Poe

Selected primary source materials will be read, discussed and analyzed on a regular basis.

Selected excerpts from fiction and non-fiction sources

**Attendance Policy**: The district policy will be followed. Regular attendance is extremely important because in-class writing, lecture, discussion and collaborative work are essentials of the course.

**Absences**: Students must make up missed notes and assignments immediately and must meet posted due dates for major tests and projects. Students who miss a class when work is due but are at school for any other part of the day must turn in their work on that day. A student with a prearranged absence must receive assignments in advance and keep current with the class while away. Assignments due during prearranged absences may be due before the student leaves, so students should make arrangements at least one week prior to absence. Tests and quizzes must be made up within the specified timeframe.

Note: you have one day per absence to make up any work. Do not turn them in to us during class time, please turn in work to the folders in our classroom. Check the class websites to find out what work was missed each day. If you miss a test or in class writing assignment, the only day to make them up is Wednesday morning before school.

**Tardies:** There is no excuse for tardies. 1st offense = warning; 2nd offense = after school detention; 3rd offense = referral to administration.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:** Our policy is straight forward -- no cell phone, iPods in class unless we give you permission; 1st offense = warning, 2nd offense = confiscate for the rest of the school day, 3rd offense = confiscate to administration with additional consequences.

**Homework:** There will typically be 45-90 minutes of homework each night for the two hour block class. All homework must be saved in the student’s notebook. It is collected regularly, normally in a homework packet, so be prepared.

**Plagiarism/cheating**: The Skyline policy will be strictly followed. Please refer to the Student Handbook for details.

**Late work policy**: Late work will not be accepted as per humanities department policy unless there is an excused absence or prearranged circumstance. If you are absent, homework will need to be attached to a ‘Late Work’ slip and submitted in the late work folder.

**Printing Policy**: While in the library or lab students have access to a variety of resources at Skyline. However, in order to manage our supplies, increase student accountability, and protect the environment, according to school policy; **students may only print 30 pages worth of material per month**. Once they have hit their limit their printing capabilities will be shut off until next month. If that occurs, students should print page at home, at a private resource center or at the King County Public Library, etc.

**Grading**: Students will receive separate grades in Language Arts and Social Studies.

A 93-100 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66

A- 90-92 B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62

B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69 F below 60

## Culminating 50% Participation/Homework 15%

Processing 25% Final Exam 10%

**Shared Grading Policy**: as the course is an integrated course, some assignments may be going in both the English and Social Studies gradebook.

## Teacher meetings: Both teachers are happy to meet with students or parents at times that are mutually convenient. Students or parents who wish to meet with one or both teachers should set up a meeting time in advance with that teacher. The teachers can be reached at the following locations:

Mr. Gai Dean’s Office (425) 837-7801 [gaip@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:gaip@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Ms. Woldendorp Office 2410K (425) 837-7894 [woldendorpk@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:woldendorpk@issaquah.wednet.edu)

2016-2017 American Studies Course Description Signature

I have read the course description. If I have questions, I will contact the teacher. I understand that in order to be successful in this course, I must complete all required work, attend class regularly, and maintain a respectful attitude towards everyone in the course.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the course description with my student. I understand that I may contact the teacher at any time if I have questions concerning this course description.

Parent/Guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_