

American Literature

Ms. Beraza: rberaza@pcsd.us Period 5 or 6 Room 209
Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/pcsd.us/ms-beraza/home>

Course Description:

Students will explore a variety of literary techniques and forms while enhancing their reading and writing skills through a literature based program. Students will develop the ability to interpret a variety of texts and understand their relevance to local and global communities. Students will use technology to revise writing, research meaningful topics, and prepare sophisticated multimedia presentations. American literature is emphasized as students explore the concept of the American Dream and its meaning.

Course Objectives:

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

- Identify authorial intent and point of view
- Determine narrator reliability
- Analyze novel and essay structure
- Identify poetic devices
- Produce a well structured paragraph using ACE and LEAF
- Begin essays with an effective hook
- Cite reliable evidence using MLA format
- Partake in literary discussions about a broad range of American texts

Alaska state standards for 11th grade English can be found here:

https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/akstandards_elaandmath_080812.pdf

Materials Needed:

For this course, in addition to the district provided laptop, you will need:

- A notebook ([Research has proven](#) that handwriting notes is better)
- Writing utensils
- Index cards (you will be expected to make flashcards for vocabulary)
- A folder or binder dedicated to this course (this will be checked)
- Assigned book or text
- Independent reading book



"A sage traveling all day is never far from the supplies in his cart and, however spectacular the views, he remains calm and composed."

— Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

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Attendance/Missed Class Policy:

The bulk of work and learning for this course will occur in class, so regular **attendance is the key to success**! If you are going to be traveling for a school sponsored activity it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check in with me before your departure to ensure you stay on track for success. CHECK CANVAS frequently and email me if you have any questions about assignments. If you are absent due to an excused absence, such as illness, check in with me as soon as you return to get caught up on assignments you missed. Unexcused absences will result in zeros for missed assignments.

Grading Policy:

25 % Participation (engaged in discussion/activities/note-taking/journals/binders)
25 % Essays (short in-class and homework)
25 % Presentations/Projects (posters, multimedia, research-based)
10 % Quizzes (periodic some are scheduled and some will be unannounced/surprise)
15 % Midterm (calculated in semester 1)
15 % Final (calculated in semester 2)

Late work policy:

I expect assignments to be turned in on time. Doing so demonstrates that you take pride in your work and have mastered effective time management, which is one of the cornerstones of success. Assignments will be marked done by 20% if received on the same day that they are due. They will be reduced by 50% after the due date. **It is your responsibility to contact me before the due date if you are struggling with an assignment.**

Contact me:

Email: rberaza@pcsd.us

Feel free to email me if you have questions or concerns related to this course. I check my email frequently and will respond as soon as I can. You can also feel free to speak to me in person. I will be in my room (209) after school until 3:45 every day.