

 SYLLABUS/ Course Handbook	Mascenic Regional High School
	<b>Course: College Preparatory American Literature</b>
	2017-2018
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## Core Values Statement

Mascenic Regional High School’s mission is to create a respectful, secure and engaging learning environment. Our goal is to motivate all students to become knowledgeable, independent, lifelong learners who will be ethical, effective 21st century citizens.

## Course Description

This is a college-preparatory course (as mandated by the administration) focusing American Literature. This year our focus, at least the first semester, will be on writings about reading various types of writing about WAR. This will include *The Things They Carried*, *A Separate Peace*, segments from *The Red Badge of Courage*, several of Walt Whitman’s *Drum Taps* poems, and various related non-fiction. There will also be numerous non-fiction and fiction videos and films.

Another major focus will be writing/composition skills at the sentence level.

## Course Standards

**The goals of this course are to help you do the following:**

**Become citizenship ready. Use literature to examine the following, in the context of the history of the United States:**

Ideals

Law/government

Populations

Ideas

Power

**Become life ready. Use literature to observe, experience and analyze about the following:**

Relationships

Human nature and psychology

Conflict

Decision-making/problem-solving

Ethics

**(continued on the next page...)**

**Become “college and career ready.” Demonstrate success in the following essentials of any workplace:**

Attendance  
Preparation

Achievement  
Engagement

Cooperation

**Communicate. Demonstrate ongoing improvement and effectiveness in the following areas:**

Verbal participation  
Writing on the sentence level

Synthesizing sources and presenting arguments

**To achieve these goals, you will need to**

**Be Present.  
Be Prepared.  
Be Positive.**

**Prerequisites:** Completion of required grade 10 English Course (Society in Literature)

### **Required Resources**

*Readings in American Literature* text and individual novels and smaller anthologies; skills texts as needed (all provided by MRHS)

Access to internet and a printer outside of class (school library, home, town library, etc.)

USB Flash drive

MRHS Network account (provided by MRHS)

### **Instructional Methods (most of which also tie in to assessments)**

Close-reading Study Guides  
Text-based Discussion Questions  
Supplemental handouts  
Graphic Organizers  
Independent and group readings

Modeling/demonstrations  
Film/audio depictions  
Presentations/slide shows  
Collaborative Process Writing  
Vocabulary Studies

### **Assessment Methods**

**Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:**

A+ = 100 – 97

A = 96 – 93

A- = 92 – 90

B+ = 89 – 87

B = 86 – 83

B- = 82 – 80

C+ = 79 – 77

C = 76 – 73

C- = 72 – 70

D+ = 69 – 67

D = 66 – 63

D- = 62 – 60

F = 59 or Below

**Students will be assessed on the course standards/competencies, content, and skills via the MRHS School-Wide Rubrics will be used as appropriate, especially in the areas of Written, Oral and Visual Communications.**

There will be reading/note-taking and/or vocabulary work on a regular basis, some of which will have to be done outside of class. During class, we will have discussions of readings, individual and cooperative tasks. Voluntary participation by all students in oral discussions is crucial. There will be quizzes (some announced and some not) on readings due for the day, reading homework assessed by oral questioning, a major persuasive research essay, and tests. Proper citations of research sources according to MLA format; proper sentence, paragraph and essay structure; and correct usage and mechanics will also be included.

All assignments (including tests, quizzes, etc.) are given various “weights”—that is, grades for some will count one-quarter, one-half, one or two times (unannounced quizzes, in-class exercises), and still others will count three, four, or five times (announced quizzes, major tests, papers, projects, etc.). If you see “3X” beside something on your Assignment Schedule, that means the grade for the assignment counts three times, for example.

Overall class participation in discussions and activities will be assessed periodically during the year and will constitute approximately 20% of each quarter grade. I may also give grades for preparation and cooperation, which will count once.

The final examination for this class will, as per School Board policy, count as 20 percent of the course grade. There may be a mid-term at the end of semester one in January. If so, the grade on this will count as 10% of the course grade and the Final in June will count as 10%.

Remember to check your grades and regularly using Power School.  
The portal is here: <https://mascenic.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

## **Course Policies**

If something is affecting your performance in my class, or you do not understand something you have to do at home, TALK TO ME. I have no way of knowing what is going on with you unless you tell me. You MUST take responsibility in this area! See page 1 for contact information.

Set aside enough time to do homework assignments carefully. LOOK AHEAD ON YOUR ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE and plan your time. Much of the work for this class is made clear well in advance. Take all relevant books and handouts home every night, plan your time to allow for glitches, emergencies, etc., and have everything you need with you for each class at the beginning of the period.

Use of technology is expected. Students will at times need to use web site I have set up to access study guides and other materials, print them outside of class, and bring them to class as required. Students will need a network password for use here at school, means to word-process or type papers at home, and access to the World Wide Web on a regular basis outside of class (our library, your town library, home, etc.).

Be prepared and willing to participate spontaneously in class discussions; it is only through these that we can go beyond superficial analysis of literature! Be thoughtful enough to make the leap and apply lessons, themes, ideals, values, etc., from literature readings to your own life, present and future.

Do not do anything that makes it difficult for yourself or others in the class to learn or for me to teach. (Always remember to LISTEN when someone else is speaking, SPEAK UP when it's your turn, and do NOT start side conversations or create distractions.) Be respectful; a classroom should be a safe space for all regardless of personal characteristics; rude comments are not allowed!

Keep up-to-date notes both from your own reading and from class discussions / lectures. You will need folders or a loose-leaf notebook. I hand out many information sheets, reprints, and Study Guides that need to be saved in an orderly fashion by adding them to your notebook or folder. Bring this to class with you every day along with a writing utensil and the book(s) we are using. You will also need a USB flash drive (1 gigabyte is more than sufficient) and are encouraged to bring your own laptop to class if that is what you need to help you learn.

Be in class every day. **If you are absent, contact someone else in the class**, find out what we did (which in most cases will be on your Assignment Schedule anyway), and **do it before you return to school** unless it is a test or quiz. Also, **check your school email**; you may call me with any questions as well. You will be expected to know, by the time you come back, what went on regardless of how much class you miss. See me between 1-B and Advisory after any absence.

## **Attendance/Assignments/Late Work**

**Be where you should be in the curriculum at all times.** I expect you to do the work regardless of absences.

I keep a **Make-up Work folder on the table to the right of the SmartBoard**; any **tests or quizzes** you miss will be in there, with your last name on them, as well as any handouts given to the class. Check this folder as soon as you come into the room after you miss ANY part of any class.

On the day you return from an absence **come to see me between the end of 1-B and the beginning of Advisory**. This is when you should arrange to make up tests and quizzes. If you have a 504 or IEP entitling you to more time on a test or quiz, please **tell me during class** that you need this (don't just write "Not Finished" or whatever on your paper).

You may not hand in late an assignment whose answers we go over in class while you are present or which has been turned back to other students with answer corrections on it. In some cases, you may be able to have an alternative assignment. Again, **the time between 1-B and Advisory is the time to arrange for this**.

**Tests and quizzes must be taken and previously-assigned work turned in with the rest of the class regardless of previous absences as well. Absences on your part do not change your due dates!**

You will need to contact me to ask for an exception if you were too ill to prepare for a test or quiz or complete an assignment. Do not wait until you are sitting in class to try to discuss this sort of thing; that's much too late. You have my phone number and email—use them! **(Parent calls to the office do not come**

**through to me; you need to contact me directly.)**

**If you come in late or leave early and have missed the entire class, come see me at some point during the day either before you leave or after you arrive** so I can give you anything that I may be passing out. Do not wait until the next day. In the case of dismissals for sports or other school-sponsored activities, the same policy applies.

**If are going to be absent from class for a reason other than illness or an emergency, you MUST** follow the procedure outlined in the Student Handbook for vacations during school time. This will entail that you tell me several days beforehand; I will see to it that you have all you need to keep up. You **MUST** complete the work I assigned you while you are out, passing it in upon your return. This will avoid your having to come in after school or miss class to make-up work during the period.