

MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE + COMPOSITION



Mrs. Renee Brown – SPRING 2020

Mr. Brandon Smith

Ms. Ashly Sorrells

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Blog: <http://mrsbrownsblog.weebly.com>

Student Remind: Text @nchmul to 81010

Tutoring/Extra Help: Available after school by appointment, except for Wednesdays.

Course Overview and Content

This course focuses on literature by and about people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Multicultural literature is specifically designed to allow students to explore the American experience through the eyes of multicultural writers – immigrants, first-generation Americans, and multiracial Americans. Students explore themes of cultural diversity through critical reading, analyzing texts, comparing and contrasting, and writing about similar themes.

We will read, discuss, and analyze a variety of written and non-written texts in order to further our understanding of America as a multicultural “melting pot.” Writing and other course assignments and activities will reinforce skills, provide opportunities for students to express their learning in a variety of mediums, and require them to show their understanding of major themes and ideas.

Unit 1: America United? (anchor text: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie)

Unit 2: Destination: America (anchor text: *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan)

Unit 3: America United! (anchor text: *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John)

Unit 4: America Diversified (a variety of short texts will be studied)

Note: Some of the content in these texts are mature. By signing this syllabus, you are granting permission to allow this content to aid in the comprehension of our studies.

Grading Policy:

Unit 1 – 20%

Unit 2 – 20%

Unit 3 – 20%

Unit 4 – 20%

Final – 20%

Late Work Policy:

Late assignments will be penalized by 20%. A final due date for each unit will be given; no late work will be accepted after the deadline for each unit grading period.

Classwork, homework, and other minor assessments are weighted as one; extended class assignments are weighted as two; tests, essays, and major projects are weighted as three. Your final exam is cumulative and is worth 20% of your entire grade.

Please check StudentVue on a regular basis. If you did not turn in an assignment that has already been graded, you will see a “Z” for “did not attempt.” You may still turn this in, but it is late. If you see an “X,” that means the assignment has been excused and is not hurting your overall grade. Remember that no late work will be accepted after the final unit deadline.

Grades will not be dropped or repaired; however, you will have some opportunity to revise major writing assignments. From the day you receive the graded assignment, you have five days to improve and resubmit it for up to a 100%. You will also receive one optional extra credit opportunity per unit to improve your average.

Do not ever hesitate to address questions or concerns about your grade with Mrs. Brown!

Absences and Make-Up Work: Daily attendance is vital to educational success as it is difficult to complete work that you miss.

In the case of an absence, you have the number of days out plus one additional day to complete missing work. It is YOUR responsibility to obtain your missing work. Please feel free to email Mrs. Brown when absent to retrieve assignments ahead of time.

Assignments due on the day that you were absent are due immediately upon your return. If you miss an announced quiz or test, you must make it up before or after school. Remember, tests and quizzes that are not made up *within five school days* will become automatic zeros.

Classroom Expectations and Policies:

- Be respectful of everyone.
- Be responsible for your learning.
- Be prepared for class each day.
- Be successful. **Goal: graduation!**
- Be polite.
- Trash goes in the trash can. Clean up after yourself.
- **All** cell phones will be put away in the designated phone holder at the beginning of each class.
- Remember all school disciplinary policies, including the tardy policy.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

This course at times will include mature themes, content, and theory designed to develop critical thinking, writing, and thinking skills necessary in post-secondary educational institutions. Should you have a problem with a particular selection for this course (see below), please do not hesitate to discuss it with Mrs. Brown. Your signature on this syllabus indicates your understanding and permission to engage with these texts.

Readings: In addition to the anchor texts listed on the previous page, we will read, discuss, and analyze a wide variety of poetry, short stories, non-fiction pieces, etc. Again, your signature on the attached parent letter signature sheet indicates your understanding of and permission to read texts with mature themes and ideas.

Films: Films are texts, and as such, we will utilize them to extend our study of literature. Possible films to be viewed (either in clips or in entirety) include "Which Way Home," "God Grew Tired of Us," "The Good Lie," "Real Women Have Curves," "The Namesake," "Smoke Signals," "Crash," "Fresh Off the Boat," "The Pursuit of Happiness," and other film clips that supplement our readings. These films are rated PG-13 and some R; your signature on the attached sheet indicates your permission to view these films.

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Syllabus Receipt and Understanding

Student: Please review the information in the syllabus carefully. **Initial** your understanding of each of the following statements, then sign and date below.

- _____ I understand that I can contact Mrs. Brown through email, blog, or Remind anytime.
- _____ I am aware of the hours I can come for tutoring or extra help.
- _____ I understand that each unit is worth 20% of my grade, and the final exam worth the last 20%.
- _____ I understand the policies for turning in late work (20% off per day).
- _____ I understand that if absent I have the number of days out plus one to make up work, with the exception of previously assigned work, which is due immediately upon return.
- _____ I understand that missed tests or quizzes must be scheduled before or after school within five school days.
- _____ I will use Synergy/Student Vue to check my grade on a regular basis.
- _____ I will notify Mrs. Brown via email if I have any questions about my grade.
- _____ I understand the rules and expectations in this class.
- _____ I have read and understand the discipline policy.
- _____ I have read and understand the tardy policy.
- _____ I understand that some of the class readings may have some mature content.
- _____ I understand that some films we may watch are rated PG-13 or R and may have some mature content.
- _____ I understand that if my phone is out in class that the 1st time is a warning, the 2nd time is a parent phone call, and the 3rd time is a write-up.
- _____ I will be responsible for attending class with all needed supplies and texts on a daily basis.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: Please review the information in the syllabus carefully and discuss the above statements with your student. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please record them here and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Additionally, please read the following statement and initial your understanding.

- _____ I give my student permission to view PG-13 rated films that supplement the course content.
- _____ I give my student permission to view R rated films that supplement the course content.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Parent/Guardian Full Name(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Best Phone Number(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____