

# Mrs. McCown's 11<sup>th</sup> grade American Literature Course

"Freedom goes hand-in-hand with mutual respect." – Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao

\*Keep this syllabus at the front of your binder\*

1. ATTENDANCE – Whether or not you show up to class, *you* are the *only* person responsible for your work. I will not seek you out to give you assignments you missed; that is your job. I will work with you to catch you up if extenuating circumstances arise, and you have been communicative and responsible in your time management (i.e. don't wait a week to get your missing assignments). Being in class regularly is the key to your success in this class.
2. TARDIES/LEAVING CLASS – Tardies are unacceptable. If you *must* be tardy, come in quietly. If excessive absences arise, parent and assistant principal contact will be initiated. A student should not ask to leave class during instructional time. While the class is given time to work independently from the teacher is the only appropriate time to request dismissal. Remember, asking for permission is not the same as receiving permission.
3. ASSIGNMENTS – All assignments should be turned in to your class's tray. All graded work will be returned to the milk crate. It is your responsibility to retrieve your graded work from the crate. Any assignments distributed during an absence will be placed in the corresponding day's folder. It is the student's responsibility to get their own assignment. Any late or absent work should be turned into the appropriate tray.
4. LATE WORK – If you are not prepared on the day an assignment is due, you can turn in the assignment on the following school day for 10% off. If the assignment is turned in any later, it will be 50% off. NO exceptions. Late work will not be accepted after the unit exam for the assignment is administered. If you are absent, refer to the school hand book: a student has two school days for each day absent to turn in work for full credit UNLESS the student was aware of the assignment and the deadline before the absence occurred.
5. MAKE UP TESTS/QUIZZES – You will have three school days to arrange a make-up test or quiz with me. Again, it is not my job to make sure you get this done. Your grade is your responsibility. Make-ups will be given before or after school with advance notice.
6. OFFICE HOURS – The time to talk to me about your grade or an assignment is before or after school (7:40-8:00am and 2:40-3:15pm). You may also e-mail me at any time and I will respond as soon as possible. Unless I specifically designate a class period for grade remediation, I will not discuss grades with you during class. You may put your name on the grade request chart in order to receive a grade check on the following school day.
7. CELL PHONE POLICY—Our classroom will operate as an expanded conversation, therefore it is expected that you will be present and focused during instructional time. I understand that you have a life outside

of school (as do I) but I will expect respect and attention while I—or another student—is addressing the class. I will ask you one time to put away your cell phone; if I must ask you again, you will promptly deliver your phone to “phone jail” where it will not be retrieved until the end of class. Should you become a repeat offender, a referral will be filled out and a guardian will be contacted. Should you choose to use your cell phone rather than use class time to work on an assignment, then that is your own prerogative. However, you will not have extended time to complete an assignment due to mismanaged time. All phones will be expected to be placed face-down on your desk during a test or quiz.

8. SEATING—Choosing where you sit is a privilege that can be taken away and earned. There will be times when it is appropriate to talk to those around you and times when it is not. I reserve the right to move students at my discretion.
9. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES—Each student will be given opportunities to accumulate a bank of up to 50 points to be earned throughout the semester. I will keep track of these points on a spreadsheet; however I recommend you keep a paper trail as well in case there are discrepancies. If these 50 points are taken advantage of they could significantly increase your grade. All extra credit will be entered at the end of the semester, rather than as it is earned.
10. ENVIRONMENT—I expect all students to treat their peers, as well as myself, with the respect they would like to receive. No student should behave in a way that detracts from the class’s potential to learn and work productively. Discrimination, prejudice, inappropriate language or gestures, and negative attitudes will not be tolerated. A student will receive one warning before being asked to leave the classroom; extreme situations will be handled at my discretion.
11. EXCELLENCE—It is expected that you will put forth your best effort on all assignments. Anything that falls below the expectation level will have points deducted accordingly. I have high expectations for your attitude, assignments, and ability be creative and critical.
12. TEACHER CONTACT—Should you need to contact Mrs. McCown for any reason:
  - a. School e-mail: [amccown@baschools.org](mailto:amccown@baschools.org)
  - b. School extension: 918-259-4310 ext. 4824
  - c. Twitter: @McCownBA
  - d. Weebly: [www.mccownbahs.weebly.com](http://www.mccownbahs.weebly.com)

As long as you are in this classroom it is expected that you will adhere to all of the above guidelines for the remainder of the school year.

I’m looking forward to a great year!

--Mrs. McCown

# American Literature Agreement

*As a student*, I have read and agree to adhere to the classroom guidelines as outlined in Mrs. McCown's syllabus. Namely, I understand that my work and, ultimately, my grade is my own responsibility.

I will put forth my best efforts in class and I will show respect to Mrs. McCown and each of my peers. I will refrain from inappropriate words and behaviors when I am in class and I will be mature when discussing all in-class material. I will respect the opinions, beliefs, and backgrounds of my peers at all times.

*As a parent/guardian*, I have discussed the syllabus and major works to be studied with my student. I have indicated below whether or not I would like my student to be engaged in the classroom assignments, viewing material, and discussions surrounding the following literary works: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," *The Crucible*, "The Devil and Tom Walker," various short stories by Edgar Allan Poe, political pieces by Thoreau and Emerson, "To Build A Fire," "The Open Boat," *The Great Gatsby*, 20<sup>th</sup> century poetry, "Shawshank Redemption."

Some of these works contain mature and sensitive content. I understand that my student will be held responsible for their behavior when discussing such materials.

If you would like to arrange a time to discuss the materials that will be covered, please feel free to do so.

Return the following portion to class by Tuesday, September 8.

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Student Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I AGREE to my student's involvement in engaging with the above listed material.

\_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT AGREE to my student's involvement in engaging with the above listed material. I understand that my student will be given an alternate assignment to complete in place of the following works.

I do not want my student to read/view: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_