

## Course Overview and Grading Policy

### English 12-Ms. Clemens

Students will be confronted with a rigorous schedule of reading, interpreting, discussing, and writing about various novels, plays, poems, and non-fiction works. In addition to several smaller works, major units of study in the first semester will be *Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald in addition to several smaller works. In the spring semester students will complete an argumentative essay and read and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and *Macbeth*, by William Shakespeare.

Throughout the course students will be invited to share insights and interpretations with fellow classmates during large and small group discussion. Because discussion is a vital part of literature study and appreciation, **ten percent** of each marking period grade will be based on participation. Students should be able to demonstrate familiarity with the literature and a growing facility with literature analysis.

**Fifteen percent** of each marking period will be based on **Mini Lesson Assessments** given at the door only to students on time to class. These mini assignments can not be made up if the student is absent.

**Fifty percent** of the marking period grade will be based on the **writing workshops** held upon completion of a play or novel or unit of study. In each writing workshop, students will receive two grades: process and product.

**Process (Fifty percent):** During the workshop, students will be expected to follow the steps in the writing process to complete a paper. As the process of writing is vitally important to growth as a writer, credit will be given for each phase of the writing process: selecting a topic, pre-writing, drafting, revising, and editing. Students will learn to depend on classmates for help in improving writing, and will become skilled in assisting others in achieving the same goal.

**Product (Fifty percent):** Content and success in the focused correction areas, (determined in conference with the student after revision of the first draft) will be the criteria for the product grade. When the final paper is turned in, students must include a self evaluation.

**Conferences:** Students will have an opportunity to conference with the teacher regarding their writing before the final paper is written. In the conference students should be prepared to share with the instructor problems with writing, segments of the paper of which they are especially proud, steps of the process which proved especially difficult. **Conferences are held by appointment before and after school at the student's request and are student led.**

**Twenty-five percent** of the marking period grade will be based on daily and in-class assignments.

Students are limited to three **late assignments** in the first quarter, two in the second quarter, and one in the third quarter. No late assignments will be accepted in the fourth quarter. **The maximum a student can earn** on a late assignment is 60 percent. **After four days**, an assignment can be turned in for teacher comment, but **no** credit will be given.

**Makeup work** is the student's responsibility. Students should check the scribe's notebook, and then pull work from the file for the dates missed. Study buddies are encouraged. Students should obtain phone numbers from reliable students with whom to confer during absence. Students must turn in absent work within in the number of days they have been out.

Each marking period will be **40 percent** of the semester grade. The final exam will be **20 percent** of the semester grade.

**Progress reports will be sent home every three weeks.**

I will respond to all email enquiries by the end of the day.

Email me at [clemensr@mtcps.org](mailto:clemensr@mtcps.org)