

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: English

Course: Contemporary American Literature I (Sports and Literature)

Level: Honors

Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

This English patterns course is a literature based course with an emphasis on the literature of sports. The activities in the class introduce and reinforce reading comprehension skills and the elements of the writing process. The literature in the course, all sports related, also introduces many students to the elements of nonfiction writing and its benefits. During the interaction with the literature, the students are asked to think critically about historical and current issues in the world of sports and analyze and understand its current and future impact on their society.

Standards:

Reading Literature: 11-12.1-10

Reading Informational Text: 11-12.1-10

Writing: 11-12.1-10

Speaking and Listening: 11-12.1-6

Language: 11-12.1-6

Anchor Texts:

Title	Publisher/Author	Year	ISBN	Distribution
Friday Night Lights	Publisher: Da Capo Press Author: H.G. Bissinger	1990	ISBN 10: 0-306-80990-7	Hard copy
What's My Name, Fool?	Publisher: Haymarket Books Author: Dave Zirin	2005	ISBN 1-931859-20-5	Hard copy
The Natural	Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux Author: Bernard Malamud	2003	ISBN 0-374-50200-5	Hard copy
How Soccer Explains the World	Publisher: Harper Perennial Author: Franklin Foer	2005	ISBN 978-0-06-197805-0	Hard copy

Supplementary Materials:

The students of the class will also be exposed to various works of short nonfiction and short fiction. These works will help reinforce the activities done with the novel length literature of the course.

Units of Study:

1. *Friday Night Lights* and Cause and Effect relationships
2. *What's my Name, Fool?* and Persuasive Essays
3. *The Natural* and Compare and Contrast Essays (interchangeable with Unit #4)
4. *How Soccer Explains the World* and Compare and Contrast Essays (interchangeable with Unit #3)
5. Independent Research Project

During each of the units, the students will be continuously exposed to the elements of the writing process and grammar, mechanics and usage issues.

Proficiencies:

1. Recognize the act and importance of listening. (i.e. to instructors, classmates, etc.)
2. Organize, prepare, and present spoken presentations clearly and effectively.
3. Apply learned skills to standardized testing situations.
4. Learn to display individual initiative in creating plan for completing assigned work
1. and independent projects.
5. Read and respond effectively to a range of reading assignments.
6. Use technology as a tool to complete and present work.

Evaluation & Assessment:

- Quizzes, Homework & Classwork: 40% of marking period grade
- Homework/Classwork: 15%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Tests & Essays: 60% of marking period grade

Final Exam: 10% of final grade

*The Final Grade will consist of each marking period (45% each) and the final exam (10%).