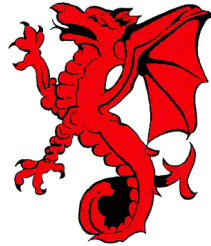


English III: American Literature

St. Francis School
Dr. Brett Paice



Course Description

This course approaches American literature less as a natural evolution or a set of specific stylistic characteristics than as a varying series of responses to the historical, technological, intellectual, and political conditions of everyday life in the United States. In the course of our literary analyses, we will address how American literature grapples with notions of personal and collective identity, the social conditions of marginalized populations, and what being **American** has come to mean over the course of time into the contemporary moment. We will concentrate heavily on honing our writing skills with special attention to strong sentence composition and carefully crafted self-expression. Students will also be asked to reflect upon their roles as part of a larger community of academic inquiry where each personal voice is valued.

Assigned readings will include novels, poems, short stories, and contemporary essays. Since visual culture plays an important role in our investigation of this period, we will also watch excerpts of films during the course of the semester. Class meetings will combine lecture and discussion formats. Passionate and thoughtful participation is required.

Required Texts

- *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962) Edward Albee
- *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms* Chris Baldick
- *The Fire Next Time* (1963) James Baldwin
- *Fun Home* (2006) Alison Bechdel
- *The Virgin Suicides* (1993) Jeffrey Eugenides
- *The Oxford Dictionary of American Usage and Style* Bryan Garner
- *Quicksand/Passing* (1928, 1929) Nella Larsen
- *American Gothic Tales* (1996) Joyce Carol Oates, ed.
- Coursepack

Course Breakdown

<p>Quarter I : American Gothic</p> <p><i>American Gothic Tales</i> Joyce Carol Oates, ed.</p>	<p>Quarter II : Black Consciousness</p> <p><i>Quicksand/Passing</i> Nella Larsen</p> <p><i>The Fire Next Time</i> James Baldwin</p>
<p>Quarter III : Oh, the Drama...</p> <p><i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> Edward Albee</p> <p>Poems: Ginsberg, Doty, Rich, Brooks</p>	<p>Quarter IV : The Great American Novel</p> <p><i>The Virgin Suicides</i> Jeffrey Eugenides</p> <p><i>Fun Home</i> Alison Bechdel</p>

Grading

- Writing (typed papers, exams, and in-class assignments) 40%
- Quizzes 20%
- Semester Final Exams 20%
- Participation 20%

Students are allowed to be late **three times per semester**. After the third tardy they will be grounded.

- **Please do not eat or drink in the classroom during regular class hours.**
- **Use of cell phones and headphones is not permitted. Cell phones shouldn't be visible during class.**
- **Laptops are only to be used with permission.**
- **Please keep these and other electronics in your backpack.**