

Junior Humanities 2019 – 2020

History: Mr. Casey Ruether
Website: ruetherhistory.weebly.com
Email: ruetherc@issaquah.wednet.edu
Phone: (425) 837-7866
Office: 2409

English: Ms. Kara Magee
Website: mageeskylinehs.weebly.com
Email: mageek@issaquah.wednet.edu
Phone: (425) 837-7866
Office: 2409

Welcome to American Studies Humanities, integrating US History and American Literature. Please read through the syllabus and ask us if you have any questions about it.

Materials: Students should come to class on time each day with the following materials:

- 3-Ring Binder with organizational system
- Lined notebook paper
- 1 Notebook for both subjects
- Blue or black ink pens
- Highlighters
- #2 pencils
- 3X5 Note Cards
- Post-its
- Student planner (paper or digital)
- Digital device (see below)

Content: Texts and novels may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *History Alive! (TCI)*
- *Conversations in American Literature* (Bedford/St. Martin's)
- *The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald)
- *Nisei Daughter* (Sone)
- *Raisin in the Sun* (Hansberry)
- *The Things They Carried* (O'Brien)
- Various other

Behavior Expectations:

- Respect for yourself, fellow students, and teachers
- Appreciation for the work done by you, your fellow students, and your teachers

General Classroom Expectations:

- Food: You may eat a small snack as long as it is not disruptive nor messy. Be responsible.
- Bathroom/Break: Students may sign out for the bathroom at a convenient time but are responsible for any missed information upon their return. One student out at a time.

Digital Devices: To foster digital citizenship skills, facilitate collaboration, and improve feedback, students will be working with digital platforms throughout the year.

Expectations: No cell phone/electronics usage, unless invited to do so by teacher(s). 1st offense = warning, 2nd offense = confiscate for the rest of class, 3rd offense = confiscate to administration with additional consequences. Off-task behavior during teacher-approved usage of digital device will result in the same consequences.

Attendance & Tardies: District policy will be followed. Regular attendance is important because in-class writing, lecture, discussion and collaborative work are essentials of the course. Progressive discipline will be used for tardies.

Excused Absences: Students must make up missed notes and assignments immediately and must meet posted due dates for major tests and projects. Students who miss a class when work is due, but are at school for any other part of the day must turn in their work on that day. A student with a prearranged absence must receive assignments in advance and keep current with the class while away. Assignments due during prearranged absences may be due *before* the student leaves, so students should make arrangements at least one week prior to absence. Tests and quizzes must be made up within the specified timeframe. If your absence is unexcused, the late policy applies.

Note: You have one day per unforeseen excused absence to make up any work. Check class websites for missed work. If you miss a test or in-class writing assignment, you are responsible for scheduling a time with your teacher to make it up. Use ABSENT/LATE stamp at top of assignment before submitting missing work.

Late Work: Unexcused absence late work will receive a 50% grade reduction unless otherwise specified by teacher. No late work will be accepted after the end of the unit. Use ABSENT/LATE stamp at top of assignment before submitting missing work.

Homework: There will typically be 45-90 minutes of homework each night for the integrated class **in total**. All due dates can be found on teacher websites.

Participation: Students are graded for preparedness, completion, effort, engagement, and active participation.

Humanities Writing Philosophy: Because writing is important across all disciplines, the Skyline Humanities Department makes teaching writing instruction one of its primary focuses. As such, the department uses common language, instruction, and assessment tools across all grade levels. Using an integrated approach, students will be taught the same style and terms and be assessed on the same rubric during their four years at Skyline. This will help the student understand where they need to grow as a learner to improve their writing over the course of their high school career.

Integrated Grades: Skyline’s Humanities Department is committed to team teaching and interdisciplinary work and study. It is our goal to integrate the two subjects—Social Studies and Language Arts—to create a deeper, more critical and balanced learning experience for your student in the social sciences. We understand that learning does not exist in the vacuum of specific subjects and believe that the best learning environment is one in which students and teachers bring diverse ideas, disciplines, and perspectives to enrich students’ understanding and the classroom experience as a whole. As such, the Skyline Humanities Department tries to integrate its curriculum as much as possible in both the block and split-block model of instruction. The result is that to get an accurate understanding of your student’s work and progress in both our classes, *some assignments demonstrate learning in both subjects and consequently belong in both grade books on Family Access*. The number of points entered in the two grade books might be different, depending on the discipline in which the assignment was the focus, as this would best reflect the student’s progress in each discipline. Teachers generally try to inform students when this will occur, and if there are any questions about a particular assignment students are encouraged to inquire. With this method, we believe both teachers and parents will be best able to track students’ progress and best understand their strengths and areas for growth.

Rounding/Extra Credit: No grades will be rounded. Opportunities may be given throughout the year for extra credit. It is an opportunity to go above and beyond, not to make up for missing assignments. Likewise, do not ask for extra credit - check the website often if you are interested in these kinds of opportunities (if not announced in class).

Grading:

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	below 60
Assignment Categories							
Culminating	55%	Processing	20%	Participation	15%	Final Exam	10%

Teacher Meetings: We are happy to meet with students or parents at times that are mutually convenient. Students or parents who wish to meet with the teacher should set up a meeting time in advance. See contact info above and on website.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY POLICY

Academic integrity speaks to a student’s commitment and responsibility to pursue scholarship openly and honestly. It respects the concept that *learning* is the primary purpose of education, secondary to grades and credits.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING -Academic Dishonesty is defined as any action or attended action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other student. A student shall not attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework (tests, quizzes, assignments, discs, projects, essays) in a manner other than defined as acceptable by each instructor. **All assignments are expected to be individual work unless explicitly stated otherwise.** Academic Integrity violations are tracked throughout a student’s entire high school career (grades 9 – 12). Academic Integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

- **Plagiarizing** or submitting any part of another person’s work as representing ones’ own scholarship
- **Distribution/sharing of class assignments or test information** in either written or verbal form to another student without teacher permission
- **Unauthorized Collaboration** – working with others without the specific permission of the instructor on assignments that will be submitted for an individual’s grade. This applies to in-class or take-home assignments/homework, projects, tests, or labs.
- **Collusion** – supporting the lack of integrity/honesty by another student, as in allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another. Collusion also includes the use or sharing of identical or highly similar passages of one’s own work, or the work of another, unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- **Technology Malpractice** – any misuse or abuse of private or public technology in relation to grades or in acquiring an academic advantage, including infractions of the school technology user agreement, language translation websites, cell phone messaging or picture transmission.

Consequences for Violation of Academic Integrity/Honesty: Please see student handbook for further details.

Please review the entire syllabus before signing & returning this sheet.

Student:

*I have read the **Academic Integrity/Honest Policy**. I understand and agree to honor it in content and in spirit. I have read and understand the syllabus and expectations outlined above. If I have any questions, I will contact my teacher.*

*I hereby understand and agree to the terms of this **contract**. I promise to do my best to fulfill the course expectations so that I may gain all of the benefits that are possible from this course. I will strive to attend class regularly, complete all required work, participate in class activities, and I will have respect for my teacher and fellow classmates.*

Student Name	Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian:

I have read this contract with my student. I understand that my signature indicates my approval of texts, works, and films that will be used during this course and implies my acceptance of the policies described in this syllabus. I understand that I am welcome to contact the teachers at my convenience regarding any concerns or comments.

Please check all that apply:

- My student has access to a laptop that they can bring to school regularly*
- My student has access to a smart phone or tablet that they can bring to school regularly*
- My student has access to a computer at home*

Parent/Guardian Name	Signature	Date
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