## Welcome to Honors Modern Literature

**Ms. Whisler 2015-2016**

“The truth is rarely pure and never simple. Modern life would be very tedious if it were either, and modern literature a complete impossibility!”- Oscar Wilde

# Global Vision

A continuing investigation of literary characters, the perspectives of a variety of authors, and the study of many genres of literature provide a greater understanding of modern literature.

# Course Overview

The eleventh grade honors modern literature curriculum focuses on a novel-based approach to literature. Over the course of the year, students will read a variety of different novels in order to further develop comprehension skills, writing skills, and speaking skills. The novels that will be read over the course of this year are challenging and the nightly reading will be extensive, as such, this course is considered to be the prerequisite for AP literature in twelfth grade.

**Materials**

* Writing utensil--a pen will be required for all in-class essays
* Reader’s Notebook--Students will be required to keep a notebook to keep track of their responses as they read, respond to prompts given by me, and to take lecture notes. (See Reader’s Notebook Handout for more information)
* 3 x 5 cards--We will use 3 x 5 cards a lot this year--for daily quizzes, exit cards, quick responses, and discussion questions. Each student should have a pack of 100.
* Folder or binder--In addition to the Reader’s Notebook, students will be given several handouts throughout the course of the year.
* Planner/Assignment Book--All students are expected to have some kind of organizational calendar so they can keep track of assignment due dates. Due dates will be given in class, posted on the board, and posted in PowerSchool. There are no excuses for not knowing when something is due.
* Multi-color pens--suggested, not required. Many students find it easier to color code their Reader’s Notebook by using various color pens. (See Reader’s Notebook Handout for more information.)

**Expectations**

Students are expected to be in class on time, prepared for every class period, and to abide by the rules outlined in the CCS Student Code of Conduct. Students are expected to act respectfully towards fellow classmates and in a manner that reflects their standing as juniors and young adults.

As an honors level course, Modern Literature students will have assignments to complete almost every night. Students are expected to keep up with the nightly reading, and accomplish assigned essays and other work in a timely manner. Making up work missed due to absences is the student’s responsibility. Students have the number of days absent plus one to turn in missed work. Students will be held to the same late policy as dictated in the CCS Student Code of Conduct: 10% off for every day that work is late up to a maximum of 50%. Cheating will result in an automatic zero for all parties involved. **Plagiarism is considered cheating.**

For each class period, students are expected to have a suitable writing utensil, (a pen or a pencil), a reader’s notebook, 3 x 5 cards, college-ruled lined paper, and any other work that is required for the day’s class. Investing in a folder or some other kind of method of filing is strongly urged, as there will be many handouts given over the course of the year. Assignments will be posted on the board and students will be reminded what is needed for the next day’s class.

Written assignments (except those completed in class) are to be typed using MLA format. I strongly encourage you to use Google Drive for all assignments so you do not have to rely on access to your H-drive or worry about losing a thumb drive. Unless told otherwise, all assignments must be *printed out* and *handed in* at the *beginning* of class on the date they are due. It is not acceptable to use class time to print your assignments from the classroom computers.

## Resources

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* Vwhisler.weebly.com
* Assignment Calendar: [http://vwhisler.weebly.com/honors-modern-literature-assignment-calendar.html](http://vwhisler.weebly.com/american-literature-assignment-calendar.html)

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. Plagiarism is defined as, “The practice of taking someone's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own” (Dictionary.com). We will discuss what constitutes plagiarism early on, and I expect that all students are honest with their writing. If a student is caught plagiarizing, no matter how big or how small, they will be punished as outlined in the CCS Student Code of Conduct.

# Other Information

Please come in and see me at anytime. If there is a question about the literature, the work, or any other question/concern, please come and see me. I have 2nd and 3rd period free everyday, so feel free to come during those periods. I have lunch 7th period, but an appointment prior to that period is necessary because I am normally not in my room at that time.

If you have questions or concerns at night or on the weekends, please send me an e-mail at [vwhisler@ccs.us](mailto:vwhisler@ccs.us). I check my e-mail periodically over the weekend and at night, so you should be able to get a response if one is required.

**In Closing**

I am really excited to be sharing my first year of Modern Literature with this class. I read these novels over the summer, and I can’t wait for some of the discussions we’re going to have. I also can’t wait to share some of the amazing projects that are in store for you. As a group, I know you will challenge me as I hope I challenge you, to be a more analytical thinker and to see literature in a new light. I couldn’t have asked for a better class to share my first year of teaching Modern Literature.

# Unit Schedule

*(This schedule is subject to change)*

**Unit 1:** Introduction to Modernism and *Things Fall Apart*

**Unit 2:** Impressionism and *Beloved*

**Unit 3:** Absurdism and *White Teeth*

**Unit 4:** Satire and *Cat’s Cradle*

**MIDTERM**

**Unit 5:** Plot and Literary Devices and *Catch-22*

# Unit 6: Expressionism and *To the Lighthouse*

**Unit 7:** Truth and Reality and *Brave New World*

**Unit 8:** The Individual in Society and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*

**FINAL**