

# Granada Hills Charter High School



## Our Mission

Granada Hills Charter High School will provide a positive student-centered environment in which all students will develop academic skills, practical skills, and attitudes to enable them to be successful lifelong learners and productive, responsible citizens in a diverse society. We pledge our resources to create a school where all students are actively engaged in the process of learning in a multicultural, multilingual setting.

## Expected School wide Learning Results (ESLRS)

Every student who graduates from GHCHS will be:

- *An Effective Communicator*, able to read, write, converse and listen for a variety of purposes
- *An Information Manager*, able to locate, access, organize, evaluate and apply information in a complex and technological world
- *A Problem Solver*, able to apply a variety of thinking, creative and computing skills to produce solutions for practical and theoretical problems
- *A Productive Member of Society*, able to demonstrate healthy, responsible behavior and to work collaboratively and respectfully in a linguistically and culturally diverse community
- *A Lifelong Learner*, able to set educational and career goals, to develop a realistic strategy to achieve those goals and to apply content knowledge and critical thinking skills to adapt to a rapidly changing environment

**Course Title:** English 11

**Teacher's Name:** Ms. Mason

**Textbook:** American Literature. McDougal Littell, 2009.

**Major Texts:** Black Boy (Wright), The Crucible (Miller), Catcher in the Rye (Salinger)

**Major Emphasis of the Course:** This course is a survey of American literature that will cover the major movements of literature throughout American history. We will start with Native American folktales move our way to contemporary literature. One of the major concentrations of this course is building upon students' prior knowledge and study of the language arts to further their ability to analyze texts and think critically. Students will constantly compare and contrast movements, authors, texts, and so forth to analyze the evolution of the American ideal throughout the history of our country. Along with the emphasis on literature and analysis, there will be a strong stress on writing technique and on improving personal style and quality. Students will compose analytical essays, a narrative essay, speeches, and many forms of informal writing to help them become better writers.

**Major Objectives of the Course:** The goals and objectives of this course align with the California State Common Core Standards for Language Arts. The major standards we will look at in this course are *reading comprehension, literary response and analysis, writing, and listening and speaking strategies*.

**Course Expectations:** All GHCHS teachers expect students to conform to the GHCHS Attendance Policy, Make up work policy, Standards of Student Behavior, Standards of Conduct, Dress Code and Academic Integrity Guidelines. These policies can be found on the GHCHS website on the Internet at: <http://www.granadahillscharterhighschool.com>.

## Classroom Rules and Expectations:

Students are expected to...

- Complete assignments with academic integrity (no plagiarism or cheating).
- Turn in hard copies of all work. Work will not be accepted via email or flash drives.
- All work must be printed prior to class. I will not allow assignments to be printed in my classroom.
- Use MLA format for all typed assignments.
- Pick up after themselves and help keep the classroom clean—*vocabulary hw will be assigned to the whole class for trash or books left on the floor!*
- No food, drinks (except water) or gum in the classroom—results in detention.

## Necessary Materials:

- Spiral notebook for journal entries
- Lined paper for notes and class work
- Black or blue ink pens
- Granada planner

**Grading Policy:** Types of assignments will include: exams, essays, quizzes (announced and unannounced), presentations, class work, group work, homework, and journal writing. Each semester, assignments will carry the following approximate weights:

**40% Writing**  
**30% Reading**  
**20% Listening/Speaking**—10% journal, 10% participation in discussion and activities  
**10% Final Exam**

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	Fail

**Late and Make Up Work:**

- Unexcused absences (including A5) will result in a zero grade on all missed assignments and class activities.
- It is the student's responsibility to follow up on make up work and check groupfusion, where homework and all assigned readings are listed online. Assigned reading should be done regardless of absences. Students will be quizzed on material when they return. Written work will have the amount of days of the absence to make up the work without losing points (2 days absence=2 days to make up the work, etc.). Exceptions are made at the discretion of the teacher. Any work not made up will result in a zero.
- All late work will receive 50% of the points of the assignment. The student will receive no comments.
- I will not accept assignments via email. If the hardcopy of the assignment is not turned in, it is late.

**Student Work and Extra-curricular activities (athletics, drama, choral/orchestral performance, cheer, ASB, etc.):**

Students are responsible for informing their teachers before a scheduled event and for making arrangements to turn in their assignments. All work due on that day, must be submitted to the teacher before the student leaves campus. Students assume full responsibility for checking their teacher's homework site and completing any homework assignments by the due date. Students will have the opportunity to complete class work or make-up tests administered while the student was at the extra-curricular activity in accordance with the teacher's make-up policy.

**MLA Format:** All essays submitted in this class must be formatted according to MLA. There are instructions as well as a template on groupfusion. I will also explain and model the format before the first assignment. Failure to use the correct format will result in a reduced grade.

**Turnitin.com:**

All essays and projects, unless I specify otherwise, must be submitted to <http://www.turnitin.com> as a precaution against plagiarism. Before the first assignment, I will model how to create an account and submit assignments. All instructions are on groupfusion. Any essays/projects not submitted to turnitin.com will receive a zero, no exceptions. Any plagiarism will be dealt with according to Granada policy.

**Class Webpage: [granadahills.groupfusion.net](http://granadahills.groupfusion.net)** All homework assignments, make up work, and project instructions will be listed on the webpage. Students are also held accountable for recording homework in their Granada planner. Most readings for the year are also accessible on groupfusion.

**Communication:**

Grades are usually up in a timely manner and are viewable online. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at [mmason@ghchs.com](mailto:mmason@ghchs.com) or contact me through the school at (818) 360-2361. (*I tend to respond much quicker to email!*) Students need to use their school email account to contact me.

**RETURN WITH SIGNATURES TO MS. MASON BY THE FIRST FRIDAY**

I acknowledge receiving and reviewing the course syllabus for English 11: American Literature

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MOVIE PERMISSION**

Please indicate whether or not your son/daughter has your permission to watch and study films in conjunction with our study of American literature in this course. All films are PG13 or under. If you have a question about the films, please email me. If there are any changes I will contact you.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **DO** give my permission for my child to view these films.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **DO NOT** give my permission for my child to view these film.