# Junior Humanities 2017 – 2018

**Welcome toAmerican Studies Humanities. This overview will provide you with a brief description of the course, its readings, and the expectations of our classroom. As will be the case throughout the year, we strongly encourage you to ask either of us any questions you may have.**

History: Mrs. Megan Santos English: Ms. Kathy Morales

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

Blue or black ink pens Lined notebook paper 3X5 Note Cards 3-Ring Binder with dividers

#2 pencils Student planner Post-its Notebook or paper for warmups

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

*History Alive! (TCI)*

*American Literature* (Holt)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Twain)

*The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald)

*To Kill a Mockingbird* (Lee)

*The Crucible* (Miller)

Selected Poetry: Anne Bradstreet, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Edgar Allen Poe

Selected primary source materials will be read, discussed and analyzed on a regular basis.

Selected excerpts from fiction and non-fiction sources

**Behavior Expectations:**

Respect for yourself, fellow students, and teachers

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

Participation be actively involved in the learning process

**General Classroom Expectations:**

Food: You may eat a small snack (free of nuts and fish) as long as it is not disruptive or messy.

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.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:** No cell phone/electronics use in class, 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.

**Attendance Policy**: The district policy will be followed. Regular attendance is extremely important because in-class writing, lecture, discussion and collaborative work are essentials of the course.

**Tardies:** There is no excuse for tardies. 1st offense = warning; 2nd offense = after school detention; 3rd offense = referral to administration.

**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.

***Excused Absences Note:*** you have one day per absence to make up any work. Check the class websites to find out what work was missed each day. If you miss a test or in class writing assignment, you are responsible for scheduling a time with your teachers to make it up. You must write ABSENT on the top of your work and the date(s) you were absent.

**Late work policy**: Unexcused absence late work will receive a 10% grade reduction per day past due date, unless otherwise specified by teacher. You must write LATE on the top of your work and the date you SUBMITTED the work.

**Homework:** There will typically be 45 -90 minutes of homework each night for the classes **in total** – both teachers work very hard to coordinate when homework and projects are due to make sure the amount of work is consistent. All due dates can be found on the class websites.

**Participation:** Students are graded for preparedness, completion, effort, and 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

Semester 2

## Culminating 40% Participation 10%

Processing 25% Final Exam 10%

JP Process 5% JP Final 10%

## Semester 1

## Culminating 50% Participation 15%

Processing 25% 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 either or both teachers should set up a meeting time in advance. See contact info above and on websites.

**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 details.

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**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

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.*

Parent/Guardian Name Signature Date