

Multicultural Literature Syllabus  
2015-16 – Mrs. Allen

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. You have chosen to take a college-prep elective class this semester. Please bear in mind that “college prep” indicates the course pace will be accelerated. This means, homework, reading outside of class, and more personal responsibility placed upon the learner.

**COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS)**

- This will be our fourth year working with the common core standards. We are using units developed specifically with the standards in mind. As an integral part of the units students will be keeping a reading/writing journal along with completing periodic common assessments.
- **READERS/WRITERS JOURNAL**
  - Students will keep a readers/writers journal where they will respond to literature and prompts throughout the year. These journals will be collected periodically, and will be a significant part of the quarter and semester grades.
- **COMMON ASSESSMENTS/ESSAYS/TESTS**
  - The assessments connected with the CCSS range from literary analysis to creative writing, and follow a variety of formats including essays, letters, oral presentations, and online collaboration.
  - Students **MUST** achieve proficiency in EACH assessment or major piece of writing in order to pass the course. Opportunities will be given to conference, revise, and resubmit work in order to achieve proficiency.
  - Each test/ project/paper will be graded on a points scale ranging from 5 to 200 points.

**MAJOR UNITS CONNECTED WITH THE CCSS**

Because this is a more traditional “college prep” type literature course, our focus is on three novels over the course of the semester. Each novel illustrates the unique perspective of a different ethnic group within American society. The three novels we will study together are:

*The Bonesetter’s Daughter*: Chinese American

*The Namesake*: Indian American

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*: Native American

**And, finally. . . . .**

*An independent novel selected from the Multicultural Lit cart. (selections will be made during the second week of class)*

**Mrs. Allen’s Late Work Policy:**

Any late daily work will be assessed a 20% deduction. After one week, the deduction is 50%. After two weeks, the assignment will not be accepted for grading.

Any late papers or projects will be assessed a 20% deduction from the final grade up to one week. After this time, the paper will be assessed a 50% deduction.

**Supplies you will need for success in this class:**

1. Composition Notebook (the kind without spirals)
2. Post its—not too big or small—the squares
3. A couple of highlighters
4. Colored pencils or markers
5. A folder with pockets or a small three-ring binder
6. An open mind and willingness to work

**Classroom Behavior Guidelines:**

\*\*Be Nice

\*\*Respect Everyone and Everything

\*\*Communication, Not Excuses

**Grading:**

I calculate grades on a points/percentage basis.

90-100 A's

80-89 B's

70-79 C's

60-69 D's

Below 60 F

A word on “extra credit”: Extra Credit is offered at the teacher’s discretion only. Extra Credit is optional and is NOT meant to “save” a student from failing a class. Extra credit points are ONLY awarded when students have completed all their daily work. It is, as the name implies, extra—not instead of—credit.