

The American Character

WEB Tutorial, Tuesdays, 2018/2019

Instructor: Amy Scruggs, amyescruggs@gmail.com

Course Description:

Students will learn to develop and defend written and oral arguments through careful reading of various genres in American literature. Students will spend the bulk of their in-class time improving their writing skills; homework during the Fall semester will consist mainly of reading and editing the work we do in class. During the Spring semester, students will work on a lengthy project centered around *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. They will be responsible for completing a greater number of assignments outside class.

Course Requirements:

Students should be able to write a sensible paragraph with ease before taking this course.

Texts:

A Break With Charity by Ann Rinaldi

**Common Sense* by Thomas Paine

**Civil Disobedience* by Henry David Thoreau

**The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin

**The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson

**Big Two-Hearted River* by Ernest Hemingway

March - The Trilogy by John Lewis

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

*Poetry TBD

*Available free online

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Text	Assignment
August 14	The Hero's Journey (to be provided in class)	In-class writing
August 21	<i>A Break with Charity</i> Chs 1-8	In-class writing
August 28	<i>A Break with Charity</i> Chs 9-17	In-class writing

September 4	<i>A Break with Charity</i> Chs 18-23	In-class writing
September 11	<i>The Lottery</i>	
September 18	<i>Common Sense</i>	Persuasive in-class writing
September 25	<i>Common Sense</i>	Persuasive in-class writing
Oct 2	<i>Common Sense</i>	Persuasive in-class writing
Oct 9	FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK
Oct 16	<i>Homecoming</i>	Five-Paragraph Essay
Oct 23	<i>Homecoming</i>	Five-Paragraph Essay
Oct 30	<i>Homecoming</i>	Five-Paragraph Essay
Nov 6	<i>Civil Disobedience</i>	Speeches
Nov 13	<i>Civil Disobedience</i>	Speeches
Nov 20	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING
Nov 27	<i>March - The Trilogy</i>	Memoir/Graphic Novel
Dec 4	<i>March - The Trilogy</i>	Memoir/Graphic Novel
CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK
Jan 8	<i>Big Two-Hearted River</i>	Character Sketch
Jan 15	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Jan 22	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Jan 29	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Feb 5	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Feb 12	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Feb 19	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments

Feb 26	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Mar 5	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Discussion/in-class assignments
Mar 12	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	SPRING BREAK
March 19	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Huck Finn Final Essay Due
March 26	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Huck Finn Presentation Due
Apr 2	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Huck Finn Presentation Due
Apr 9	American Poets series (tbd)	
Apr 16	American Poets series (tbd)	
Apr 23	American Poets series (tbd)	
Apr 30	American Poets series (tbd)	

Aug 14-Oct 2
 Fall Break Oct 9
 Oct 16-Nov 13
 Tgiving Nov 20
 Nov 27
 Dec 4