**English 30S Literary Focus**

“Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write.” (William Faulkner).

English 30S Literary Focus uses literature as a backdrop and platform to learn how to interpret text and create one’s own voice in their writing. With each story read, students will learn how an author uses their voice to create power and agency through their form and techniques.

The course is formatted through taking a look at different forms to develop the student’s toolkit of strategies and understanding of form and techniques. Through using, poetry, novels, and short stories students do not only develop their understanding of the English language, but also develop their understanding of the world around them. “The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest (people) of the past centuries.” (Descartes), the conversation does not end with the reading, but the course encourages conversation between students, allowing for the realm of learning to expand beyond own personal experience and interpretation.

Each unit is form based, but themes are carried through from unit to unit. The learning begins with Fitzgerald’s classic, *The Great Gatsby,* we then take a closer look at close reading through the study of short stories, including the study of oral story telling. Students have a chance to further develop their ability to interpret with a unit based around poetry and its form. The final two units are a chance for the student to demonstrate their knowledge and skills gained through the studying of the previous units. Students will write their own short stories using different literary devices. Finally, students will study Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein.*

Students are expected to learn to communicate through Brightspace to their teacher and be able to autonomously take charge in this guided learning experience.

**Grade Break Down:**

* Assignment – 55%
  + The assignments are mainly writing, and map based. Willingness to learn to write essays in MLA is a necessity.
* Discussions - 25%
  + Discussions can be either written or verbally discussed at scheduled times.
* Quizzes and Reflections - 20%

**Topics (Learning Modules):**

1. *The Great Gatsby*
2. Short Stories
3. Poetry
4. Creative Writing
5. *Frankenstein*