
American Lit Project (Semester One Extra Credit)

This project combines elements of American Literature, US History, and Digital Presentation. First, you will be reading a book of your choice from the list below. Second, you will be preparing a presentation about the book discussing how it fits within the context of the historical era that it was written, as well as the historical era that it takes place. Finally, you will not be giving this presentation to the class; you will be creating it digitally and loading it into YouTube. Here are the details:

The Book: You can choose one of these ten books to read. All are considered American classics, and they represent vastly different viewpoints on America and American Culture over a wide range of time.

1. Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
2. The Sound and the Fury – William Faulkner
3. Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison
4. House of Mirth – Edith Warton
5. Catcher in the Rye – JD Salinger
6. Beloved – Toni Morrison
7. All the Pretty Horses – Cormac McCarthy
8. East of Eden – John Steinbeck
9. Catch 22 – Joseph Heller
10. On The Road – Jack Kerouak

The Context: All books, all media, all art, are derived in part from the time period from which they were written. They also have something to say about the time period in which they are set. You are going to look at these elements by taking what you have learned about US history (you may need to do some research) and applying that lens to the book. Here are some things to think about. Who was the author? What was his/her social standing during the time period? What major events conspired to affect American culture at the time of composition? Where does the story take place and why is that significant? What do the characters tell us about the setting or the time it was written? What subtext does the author want the reader to see? These are but a few of the interesting ideas to explore with this assignment.

The Presentation: You have complete creative license here. You can use a webcam, digital camera, or even your phone to live capture yourself discussing the book. You can create slide shows or animations. I want you to be as creative with the presentation as you possibly can. As long as the end production uploads to YouTube, and you fulfil your duties to the **Context** of the book, that is all that matters. However, I am not going to show you how to do any of this; everything you need is a google search away. I will however help you set up a YouTube channel using your BHS gmail account, if you like.

You can earn up to 10 points (based on overall quality) in the essay category for completing this assignment and it needs to be done by Dec 16.

Good Luck, and have fun with it.