Welcome to the second semester of American Literature. This term we focus on themes and issues that mark our diverse literary heritage. Readings are modern and current; their authors include the living and the dead. Minorities and women are represented in the variety of texts we read which includes the following:

- *Manchild in the Promised Land*, by Claude Brown
- *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Brown Girl Dreaming*, by Jacqueline Woodson
- “Notes of a Native Son,” by James Baldwin
- *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Selected short stories/essays by Kate Chopin, Lucia Berlin and Jo Ann Beard
- *The Glass Menagerie, or Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, by Tennessee Williams
- *The Zoo Story* and *The American Dream*, by Edward Albee
- Selected poems to start each Tuesday’s class. Let me know if you have a favorite.

Briefly, here is a list of what I expect from you:

- reading assignments which reflect the block schedule--25-30 pages per night
- analytical and creative papers - two of these will be outside reading papers, 4-5 pages; several will be ONE page mini papers; and creative assignments – all HARD COPY (NO EMAIL)
- reading quizzes (help class discussion)
- tests (rare) and in-class writing assignments (not so rare)
- a final exam: essay and objective (often written by you)
- a binder for class notes, hand-outs, NEW-- “word of the day,” etc.
- responsibility for staying on top of PowerSchool and your missed work
- class participation (MORE ON THIS)
- devoted daily attendance and attention to the assignment sheets

**WORD PROCESSING, REQUIRED!**

All major assignments must be word processed or typed. Small homework assignments should be typed as well, but may be handwritten in ink and double-spaced. Pencil is fine only for writing done in class. All work must be written on ONE side of the paper only.

**GRADES**

I use points for arriving at grades. Each assignment is worth a certain number of points. Your cumulative grade is available to you and your parents on PowerSchool. Since your grades are cumulative, at each nine week marking period, your grade will reflect your average to date. In the end, the cumulative average will count approximately 80% and the final exam approximately 20%. Seniors with B averages may opt out of the final exam.
Assigned papers must come in on time. I reduce your grade by 2 points a day for ONE WEEK. Papers more than a week late get a cursory reading, no comments and then 50% of what the papers would have been worth had they come in on time, plus possible mercy points.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is critical. Coming in late is rude, disruptive and contrary to the trust established at CHS. Tardiness will affect your class participation mark, which is approximately one-fifth of your grade. If you miss a reading quiz because you would not come to class on time, I will not offer you a make-up. The same is true for work missed due to skipping. You need to have honest excuses for missed work.

FINAL COMMENTS

Finally, coffee and pop are okay, but CLEAN UP. Let’s share snacks, planned or unplanned. You may not be brilliantly inspired by the foods that appear in this term’s texts, that is, not until we get to The Great Gatsby. Cell phones? Control yourselves so that your class participation grade isn’t lowered. Avoid plagiarism. Always come to me when you feel desperate enough to plagiarize. I’ll find a way to save your integrity and your grade. Plagiarism does result in a meeting with Dean Rebecca, your parents and me, as well as required rewrites. I don’t have any other rules. I love this class and look forward to reading and learning with you.