

**Incline High School  
Course Expectations  
2020-2021**

**English 5-6**

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[www.stayclassyincline.com](http://www.stayclassyincline.com)

Course Description

This course is designed to increase your knowledge and understanding of American Literature and its connections to America's ideals for individual liberty and equity, while still recognizing and valuing our diversity. Thus, through the study of American Literature, students will discover, understand, and apply the concepts of liberty, diversity and equity, and ultimately answer the question, "Can equity and diversity coexist in American society?"

English 5/6 is being developed into a competency-based learning platform; thus, requiring full participation and a commitment from every student to conduct independent work. Discussions, group projects, seminars, and assessments are executed during the classroom instruction time, but the majority of strategies development and content knowledge acquisition is derived from independent study in-class and online at home. Students are expected to demonstrate "proficiency" of knowledge and skills connected to the content to earn the passing grade desired.

Course Goals

- To introduce students to a variety of authors, cultures, times, and literary forms in America's history
- To employ the writing process for the development of literary analysis, narrative composition, informative essay, and poetry writing
- To expand vocabulary, knowledge of grammar, and critical thinking skills
- To instill a love of literature and encourage students to become lifelong readers.
- To prepare students for the rigors of future English classes

New for 2020-2021!

- Whatever happens this year, you will earn grades traditionally. We are starting the same way we always have started: your work and effort will determine your grade. If we must switch to a distance learning model, the same applies. Do not start this school year with the same mindset with which you ended the last one. In other words, your work, attendance, and effort count, and **you will succeed or fail (with an actual F on your transcript) accordingly.**
- We are going almost entirely paperless. **You will need your laptop every single day and you will need to keep your digital files organized in OneDrive.** You will not be able to complete course work unless you have it, and unless the circumstances are extraordinary, your grade will suffer without a laptop.
- Reminder: we are on an A/B schedule with alternating in-person days. Attendance on your remote days will be taken with assignments turned in by 2:15pm.

### Textbook(s)

The Elements of Literature will be the primary literary text for this course. If lost the student will be responsible for an \$80 replacement fee.

### Course Structure

- I. Semester One
  - A. Unit #1 – Native American Traditional and Contemporary Literature
  - B. Unit #2 – Enlightened Founding Fathers Traditional Literature
  - C. Unit #3 – Black American Traditional and Contemporary Literature
  - D. Cumulative Semester Final (15% of Semester Grade)
  
- II. Semester Two
  - A. Unit #4 – Latinx American Traditional and Contemporary Literature
  - B. Unit #5 – Enlightened Founding Mothers Traditional and Contemporary Literature
  - C. Unit #6 – Asian American Traditional and Contemporary Literature
  - D. Cumulative Semester Final (15% of semester grade)

\*\*\*\*Due to the level of this course, much of the literature we study will cover mature themes, and do – in some cases – contain profanity. I will attempt to teach around questionable material, if possible, but I will not provide edited texts. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [neal.young@washoeschools.net](mailto:neal.young@washoeschools.net). In the event a parent/guardian does not wish for their student to participate in the exploration of that topic, an alternate work will be assigned, an alternate work will be assigned. The student will NOT lose points.

### Materials

Please have all supplies available by the end of the first week of school.

- A folder or binder in which to keep any handouts or packets. These will be limited, but essential.
- Plan to take advantage of the Incline High School laptop program and OneDrive system. Any concerns about online class resources or access or should be discussed with the teacher and/or directed to the administration.

### Grading Scale

**Letter grades will be determined on the following scale:**

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	below 60%

## Grading Procedures

1. My website ([www.stayclassyinline.com](http://www.stayclassyinline.com)) is the best way to track our daily work - check it every day, especially when you are absent.
2. Students who are tardy will miss opening of class graded activities.
3. **Late Work: formal essays turned in late will lose work ethic points. All other assignments will be docked 50% if late. I will not accept late work turned in after the grading period (progress report or end of quarter dates - and no late work will be accepted during the last week of the grading period).**
4. Homework is vital to the process of learning and – although I will try to give ample time for most assignments in class – it is a necessary evil and will be expected on a regular basis. No excuses (other than family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances deemed fit by the teacher).
5. Spelling, grammar, and neatness are of the utmost importance. I will return assignments that are not completed or kept in a professional manner and in line with my expectations. Students will be required to return said assignment in a professional manner in order to receive full points.
6. Attendance is vital in my class. Students who miss considerable time will struggle if they fall behind.
7. Participation is expected from all students as this class will revolve around discussions. Failure to participate will hurt the student's grade.
8. Extra credit may be given at my discretion intermittently throughout the year. However, the points will be minimal and not impact grades to a large extent (in other words, it will not be used as a substitute for major work or grades).
9. Grades will be updated at a minimum of once a week.

## Make-Up Work

After any absence, follow this procedure:

1. Check the class website ([www.stayclassyinline.com](http://www.stayclassyinline.com))
2. Check with another student in the class.
3. If you still have questions, ask Mr. Young.

**It is the student's responsibility to obtain appropriate make up work directly following the student's return. Any previously assigned and due assignments before the absence are due next class period. It is suggested that all students maintain a reliable "study-buddy" who will gather missed work and notes for him/her. Remember, taking the initiative to do this make-up work is solely the student's responsibility, *not* the teacher's. If a student is absent on the day of a major essay or exam, the day the student returns, s/he is expected to turn in the work or complete the exam during lunch, a prep period, or after school.**

## Basis for Grades

### **Grade weights:**

**70% Assessments (Essays, tests, quizzes, projects)**

**20% Formative/Practice work (classwork, homework)**

**10% Work Ethic**

### **Semester grades will be calculated as follows:**

<b>All work prior to exam</b>	<b>85 %</b>
<b>Semester Exam</b>	<b>15 %</b>

### Class Rules:

- 1. Academic Integrity-** All students involved in copying, plagiarism, or cheating of any kind will receive a zero on the assignment and referred to administration.
- 2. Disruptions to the learning environment are unacceptable.** Students acting inappropriately will receive the appropriate consequence on the progressive discipline plan. *Any* conduct, which disrupts the education of the class, will be handled quickly and seriously. *Parents will be notified, and may be asked to come in for a conference.*
- 3. Cell phones should be turned off and put away when class begins.** If a cell phone is out or being used by a student without the teacher's permission, it will be immediately confiscated.
- 4. Any inappropriate or non-school related use of laptops will result in the direct confiscation.**
- 5. Other than water, no food or drink is allowed in class, unless provided or approved by the teacher.**

### Classroom Discipline:

The administration of detentions is based on the severity or repetition of a behavior that violates school and/or classroom rules. Verbal warnings (up to two) may be given so that the student may modify his or her behavior to fit the classroom expectations. Students may also be given the opportunity to take advantage of a cool-off time period outside of class with the option of being invited back in if the behavior is corrected. Students will still have access to and receive their education during this time. However, if the behavior continues, the student will be given a detention and parent(s) and the office will be notified. This class adheres to the IHS Progressive Discipline Policy.

### Citizenship

The education of students is the ultimate objective of this course. Interfering behavior will result in lowered citizenship grades.

### Office Hours

**I will be available before and after school for make-up work and questions. Generally, my hours will be 7:00 am – 3:00 pm in room 213. Special appointments may be scheduled on an individual basis.**

Mr. Young

English 5-6

[neal.young@washoeschools.net](mailto:neal.young@washoeschools.net)

TO ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Students: Please email the teacher within the first quarter to establish a working connection.

Parent/Guardian Email – Please make sure your email is up to date in Infinite Campus. I will send emails to those addresses in your student's file.

Understanding the elements of this syllabus is critical to a student's success in this class. Please indicate that you *and* your student have read and understand the attached information by emailing me the following:

Student Name

Class name

Period

Parent/Guardian

Comments, questions, or concerns

Please email me this information at [neal.young@washoeschools.net](mailto:neal.young@washoeschools.net) by the end of the first week of school.  
Thanks!