Honors Comprehensive American Studies II
Course Expectation Sheet
Mr. Sachs / Mr. Slobig = Slacks

Comprehensive American Studies II is a year-long team taught classroom environment that combines the disciplines of American History and American Literature from 1850 to the present. Due to the nature of the course, two credits are assigned to the class; one in English, and one history credit.

Because student learning happens throughout an entire course, grades for all courses will now be in-progress until the end of the course. Grades will no longer be closed at the end of each quarter for semester or year-long courses for 40% or 20% of a final grade. Instead, they will be continuous and open until the final exam. The course work completed in a quarter-long, semester-long, or year-long class will account for 80% of a student’s final grade, with the remaining 20% being the final exam. Parents and students are able to view in-progress grades daily in Infinite Campus. Parents will receive regular notifications from Salem High School reminding them to review their child’s progress.

Your grade will be based on both formative, (a variety of learning checks during a unit of study designed to measure basic understanding), and summative, (typically one final check-in at the end of a unit of study designed to measure depth of understanding) assessments.

Formative assessments can include, but are not limited to, homework tasks, reading checks, on demand writing, question and answer sessions, exit and entry slips, and quizzes and tests.

Summative assessments can include, but are not limited to, writing prompts, cumulative tests, creative activities, presentations, and any use of technology designed to display your depth of knowledge.

Any assignment turned in on time, and with an appropriate degree of effort, can be redone for full credit. The student must meet with the teacher who scored the assessment within three school days of receiving the assessment back. At that meeting a decision will be made as to what needs to be re-worked, and when it will be due.

We do not take points off for late work, however, any assignment that is more than three days late cannot be re-visited for a higher grade unless an agreement had been made beforehand.

It is also our intention to prepare you for the S.A.T. which will be given in either the fall of 2017, or spring of 2018. By working on many of the “habits of the mind”, we feel that you will be better prepared for this new test. “Habits of the mind are an identified set of 16 problem solving, life related skills necessary to effectively operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity, and craftsmanship”. (Arthur Costa, and Bena Kallick) Examples would be: persisting, thinking flexibly, Striving for accuracy, and applying past knowledge to new situations.
The curriculum for the course is driven by the following course competencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>COMPETENCIES</th>
<th>COMPETENCY WEIGHT</th>
<th>SUMMATIVE WEIGHT</th>
<th>FORMATIVE WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>390 - Comp American Studies 2</td>
<td>Reading about American Literature and History</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>392 - Honors American Studies 2</td>
<td>Writing about American Literature and History</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Listening and Speaking</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have removed research as a stand-alone competency, believing that it is wrapped into reading and writing.

The instructors work very hard to integrate a variety of the above competencies into each unit design. The academic rigor of the class can lead to student frustration, and potentially feeling overwhelmed. If for any reason the student or a parent feels extra help or a family meeting is necessary, please do not hesitate to contact one of your instructors. Our e-mail addresses are listed at SAU57.org.

We strongly encourage constant monitoring of the Parent Portal to remain updated on student progress, especially for any missing assignments. When grades are posted we will flag all assignments that are missing, unless we have exempted them. Additionally, we will be sending home via e-mail, weekly or bi-weekly summaries of important reminders regarding classroom curriculum.

During the school-year we do use a variety of resources. There is a history textbook, and a literature anthology. Due to the size and weight of these books we will only be using them in-class. Students may sign out a book to bring home at any time.

We will also be delving into primary source readings, and many American novels. Students will be given their own copies of these additional resources, and will be accountable at all times for their whereabouts. **We encourage a three ring binder and will three-hole punch material.**

By junior year in high school discipline matters should not be an issue. However, the following behaviors will not be tolerated in the classroom: use of cell phones, or visually displaying of cell phones, headphones in the ear, head down, or napping in class, or any disrespectful behavior directed toward peers or an adult in the classroom.

Finally, we are truly looking forward to working with all of our families in Honors Comprehensive American Studies II this year. We have a tremendous amount of passion and enthusiasm for the course, and love the dynamic team approach. We are confident that the class will quickly become a favorite of yours also.
Please Sign: Parent: __________________________

Student: __________________________