In this course we will focus on:
• Improving writing, reading, speaking, and critical thinking skills for all students.
• Becoming familiar with a variety of authors, literary works, styles, and genres in American Literary history.
• Analyzing texts (fiction and non-fiction) and thinking critically about the authors’ choices in regards to style and technique, as well as and making connections between the text and other historical American events and current events.
• Analyzing and identifying reliable sources of information; assessing issues of reliability and bias.
• Develop proper usage of the English language through grammatical study and sustained writing and revision.
• Integrating technology into the classroom so students can master 21st century skills.
• Conducting academic discussions on a variety of topics, and demonstrating an understanding of the proper registers of language and techniques to use when having these discussions.
• Improving public speaking and presentation skills with practice and individualized feedback.

Students should be prepared to exhibit strong work ethic, and should plan to apply themselves and make studying, reading, and completing class assignments a priority. Students should plan to allocate enough time to read the assigned text and study – it is the student’s responsibility to be prepared. Though this class will be rigorous, students should feel free to ask me for additional help or assistance whenever they need it. As this class is the precursor to either AP Language and Composition or Dual Enrollment English 1101, students should be prepared for a more rigorous course load.

Below are the units we will be covering throughout the course with the thematic topic. There is a TENTATIVE schedule of 2.5-3 weeks per unit - you should expect a unit test every three weeks.

Unit 1: A New World and American Roots
Unit 2: Dark and Light Romanticism: American Individualism
Unit 3: A Nation Dividing and Expanding
Unit 4: A New Century, A New America
Unit 5: Modern Drama Study - The Crucible (mini unit)
Unit 6: I Too Am American - Civil Rights and Counterculture
Unit 7: Heritage and Multicultural American Identities
Unit 8: Globalization and American in the 21st Century

These are merely representative titles and may changes to fit the availability of sources, needs of the students, and the goals of the course.
Students and Parents: We are excited to provide your student with all the new and engaging instructional models available in a 21st century classroom thanks to HCSD moving to a 1:1 chromebook model. All students in the district are now assigned a chromebook to use, and this English classroom will make DAILY USE OF STUDENT CHROMEBOOKS. Please note that these devices were already used almost daily in ELA prior to the 1:1 initiative – now that these devices are the responsibility of HCHS students and not housed in the building it is essential that they bring them each day and follow the rules and procedures. This is a great opportunity to learn technology enhanced skills, adult responsibilities and, when warranted, the consequences of not executing those responsibilities. As such it is important that you review the district chromebook policy and the English department policy below.

- **Chromebooks are required every single day in HCHS ELA courses**. Students will use their chromebook to access readings and resources daily, take quizzes and assessments and submit work.
- **Chromebook must be brought to class CHARGED each day.** Should a student’s chromebook battery deplete during the day, they need to have their charger with them as well. However – during 1st and 2nd block chromebooks should not be dead or need to be plugged if the student charged them at home as required.
- **Teachers will not provide extra chargers.**
- **Students may not be able to sit at the charging station with their chromebooks due to social distancing.** They will have to leave their chromebook at the charging station.
Should a student fail to bring their chromebook or bring a ‘dead’ chromebook to class:

- Students who leave their Chromebook at home still are responsible for completing their coursework as if they had their Chromebook with them.
- Teachers will not be leaving the room to go make copies in the workroom for students.
- Students will not be given a different or alternative assignment.
- Students may use their cellphone to complete the work, however, the teacher cannot ensure network/service access in all parts of the building.
- Students will have to complete assignments on their own time and will have the same due date – they will not get an extension for lack of preparing or adherence to the rules.

The English department disciplinary policy for repeatedly leaving chromebook at home/lack of preparation for class or repeatedly bringing an uncharged chromebook are as follows:

- **1st offence** – verbal warning, email home. Student is still responsible for completing the work by the due date.
- **2nd offence** – 20pts off of the assignment in question – if no graded assignment is submitted that day, but the chromebook is needed for instruction, student will be given detention. Email home.
- **3rd offence** – 20pts off the assignment in question and student is written up and referred to administration for disciplinary action. Email home.

The following actions will immediately results in a student referral to administration for disciplinary action:

- Leaving Chromebook unattended or in an unsupervised area.
- Attempting to bypass Harris County School District Network security, including firewalls and web content filtering (do not install VPNs on the chromebook).

Now that all the chromebooks have been redistributed to students, the success of our instruction will depend on students bringing and using these devices properly - this is an important opportunity to learn responsibility and how to managed work and time in a 21st century context. Please adhere to these rules and policies so we can all be successful.

Note: Students will have access to the wifi at school to download the necessary materials should their internet prove unreliable at home. All GoogleSuite apps for this call can be accessed via Smartphone as well.
Each student in this course is expected to abide by a code of academic integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Students should be cautioned when using Internet and/or written study guides/aides. Using this sources may help students better understand a text; however, using the ideas as his/her own for graded assignments without citing them is plagiarism.

Should copying occur, students involved (both the giver or receiver of the work in cases where classmates copy each other) will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and be referred to administration. Students who cheat on an assignment will not be eligible to exempt the 9 weeks or final exam for the course, and cannot qualify as valedictorian or salutatorian.
Late assignments receive - 20pts EVERY DAY they are not turned in... not ifs, ands' or but's. After 3 days YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED ISS.

The simplest way to resolved this issue is to DO YOU WORK ON TIME.

Late Work Policy

Make up work without penalty is available for students with EXCUSED ABSENCES only. If you have an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE you will lose 11pts on make up assignments. You have three days to make arrangements for your missing work before it will be considered late.

Cellphone Policy

If you choose to charge the phone in the room during the class period you must leave it on charge until the end of the block- you cannot continually get up and check on your phone.

If you continually have your phone out when not instructed, I will ask you to put it up. If I have to ask more than twice I will take your phone and lock it up for the remainder of class and you will get it back when the bell rings. Defiance or refusal to turn your phone over will result in a referral.

After two incidences of inappropriate phone use students will receive detention and parents/guardians will be contacted.

If continued inappropriate phone use continues after the first detention, students will be written up and parents will be contacted.

Again - learning when it is appropriate to have your smartphone out and when to use it is an important skill students need to learn if they wish to be successful outside of school. Please follow the rules and guidelines.

It's Simple:

Don't use your cellphone in class unless instructed by the teacher for academic purposes.
#1 Be Prepared
Students must show up each day having completed the required reading for that day. You cannot succeed in this class if you do not read the assigned materials and complete the assignments. Students must also have assignments ready to turn in on time, and must bring required materials each day.

#2 Be Respectful
Students need to come to class and behave as young adults. Being respectful of fellow classmates and the teacher will result in a more productive and enjoyable classroom for everyone. Name-calling, taunting, bullying, mocking other students, copying or stealing their work will not be tolerated – you will be written up and face consequences.

#3 Ask Questions
This is our most important class rule. Students should ask questions often. Students should come to class prepared to learn, and should feel free to ask questions to improve their learning. Students should also ask for help whenever they need it. If a student is confused, needs clarification, needs additional help, is frustrated, doesn’t understand a concept, they should feel free to ask me for help. ASK at any time! If you are confused about a concept we discuss in class, do not wait until right before the test – ask as soon as you realize you are confused. As your teacher I am here to help – please come to me and ask questions whenever you need to.
Email: pierce-t@harris.k12.ga.us
Phone: (706) 628-4278
Website: www.englishwithmrspierce.com
Remind 101: Text @mrsp111it to 81010 in order to receive daily homework and study reminders!
Office Hours: After school, 2:45-3:45 pm.
Students and Parents: Please know that due to the number of students in this class, social distancing of 3ft-6ft will not be possible. While every step is being taken to arrange the room so that your student is best served and safe, a mask will be required during this class period. Please know students will be allowed to step out for breaks during the period should they need fresh air, and we will try to have class outside and distanced without masks when possible. Please know that blatant or belligerent refusal to wear a mask will result in parents being contacted, and students being referred to administration. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to educate our students and create a safe environment for all.

Students and Parents: Please know that temperatures will be checked at the beginning of each class period. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will immediately be referred to the nurses office, and may be placed in isolation until they can be picked up.