

English III: American Literature

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Terry High School

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Course Description:

In this course, students will discover his/her own voice in discussion, and learn to further the great conversation by writing with clarity and with their own persona. Students will see the relevance of narratives and ideas in the stories that are all around them in film, literature, and television, in both digital and print formats. Thus, by integrating various views, students will contribute their own verse to the world.

In American literature, students will explore the concept of the American Dream and what aspects define America. They will read multiple texts from the *Collections* textbook, along with novels such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*.

Course Objectives:

- *To understand and define complex concepts.
- *To practice and hone analytical and critical thinking skills.
- *To effectively engage in collaborative discussions with other students by employing textual analysis to share ideas and form critical views.
- *To interpret films while comparing them to related print versions.
- *To develop media literacy.
- *To identify and synthesize a variety of ideological and social perspectives.
- *To analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of arguments.
- *To analyze representative texts from the American experience.
- *To practice and hone the craft of the essay in all its stages: prewriting, drafting, revision, and editing.
- *To recognize the role of audience in determining an essay's focus and aim.
- *To examine and apply syntactic structures in the written and spoken word.
- *To analyze how writers, use logic, evidence, and rhetoric to advance their views.
- *To analyze a writer's complex writing and stylistic choices.
- *To research and synthesize information about a literary era.
- *To improve reading comprehension skills and become a more active reader.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to attend **every class** to succeed. Classroom participation—including in-class note taking, contributions during class discussions, and the completion of assignments that are due—is essential. Failure to comply with the following classroom policies will result in a behavior intervention (verbal warning, desk change, hall conference etc.) upon first offense, parent phone call upon the second offense, and then, a discipline referral upon further offenses. It is left up to the teacher’s discretion whether a violation of the rules warrants a verbal warning or an immediate issue of detention or referral.

Course Etiquette:

Belligerent or disrespectful behavior, either directed at the teacher or other students, will not be tolerated. All students must comply with Terry High School’s “Dress Code” as outlined on pp.38-39 of the 2017-2018 HCSD Handbook for Parents and Students.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be respectful to yourself AND others.

-This means to everything and everyone in the room. This means that you can be respectful by not throwing things, being rude, having a negative attitude, refusing to communicate or do work, having outbursts, lying, cheating, taking things that aren’t yours, using inappropriate language, etc.

2. Be on time.

-This means come to class, on time, every day. If late during first block, students must receive a pass from the office. If late after first block, students will receive a detention.

3. Be prepared for class.

-This means bring all necessary materials (homework, binders, pens, etc.) to class.

4. Keep electronics put away, at all times! Phones, Macbooks, and other electronics should not be out unless you are given explicit permission to use them. ***If any device is out without permission, I will take it and turn it into the front office.***

5. No eating or sleeping in class-doing so will result in an automatic detention.

Procedures:

1. Come in quietly, turn in any homework in your designated bin, sit down in your assigned seat, and get materials out. **Immediately** begin working on bell ringer. Once you are in the classroom, you cannot leave (Go to the bathroom **before** coming to class. If you are still standing when the bell rings, you are tardy).
2. Once the time is up, the instructor and students will review the bell ringer. After the review, students can put away their bell ringers. Bell ringers are turned in on Fridays in the designated bin, regardless of whether the instructor is present or not.
3. When the instructor is speaking, **do not talk**. If there is a question or concern, raise your hand and wait for the instructor to call on you.
4. Per school policy, students can go to the bathroom, during class, after the first 20 minutes of class have passed or before the last 20 minutes of class. *However, it is at the teacher's discretion to determine whether a student is allowed to go to the bathroom or not.*
5. **The use of electronics will be allowed only when the instructor permits it. Otherwise, keep all electronics put away or they will be taken and turned into the office.**
6. You are to stay in your seat **at all times**, unless the instructor has given you permission to get up.
7. If you are absent, you are to check Google classroom and the box with your corresponding class period. The assignment will have a date that is due on it. **If this assignment is not turned in by this due date, it will be deemed late and will not be accepted.** If a student is absent due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. death in the family, illness, etc.), it will be at the *TEACHER'S* discretion as to how much time a student will be allotted to complete and turn in work.
8. **LATE WORK (Homework/Other Daily Assignments) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**
9. If a student is absent, he/she will be allowed the same number of days to return the completed major assignment as the number of days missed from the class (i.e. missed two days= return all work within two days of returning to class); this must be uploaded to Google classroom unless instructed otherwise. If not completed, the student will be docked 10 points until they upload the assignment or receive a zero. Reference 'Grading Policy' in syllabus for other information regarding absences and make-up work.
10. Five to ten minutes before the bell rings, the instructor will explain/hand out homework, hand out an exit ticket, or answer any questions. Students will then be allowed to gather their things, clean up, and get ready to go to the next class. Students will remain in desks until the bell rings and they are dismissed; the bell does not dismiss you, **I DO**.
11. For class discussions, separate rules and procedures will be given at the time of discussion.
12. If an assembly is called, students will quietly wait for directions from the instructor.
13. If announcements come over the intercom, students will quietly listen to them and continue with their work.

Bullying:

Students will not harass or otherwise act violently towards other students (*see 2017-2018 HCSD Handbook, p. 42 for the official school policy on bullying*).

Required Materials:

1. One three-ring binder (1 in. or in a shared binder with its own section/divider) and/or folder for class handouts and notes
2. Paper
3. Blue or black ink pens **only**-Pencils will not be used unless permission is given to use them; Failure to use a blue or black ink pen will result in points (10) being deducted from the assignment, test, etc.
4. Highlighters
5. White-Out or Correction Tape
6. MacBooks

Course Structure:

Given the dynamic nature of a classroom environment as well as the diversity of needs a class may have, a certain amount of flexibility with regards to the course structure is necessary. Nevertheless, classes will generally proceed as follows:

“Bell Ringer” assignment (5-15 min.): Students will follow the assignment instructions that will be on the board every day at the start of class and will review with the instructor when completed.

Direct Instruction (15-25 min.): The teacher will introduce and explain new material. In preparation for college, students are required to take notes during direct instruction during some classes.

Student-led Instruction (15-25 min.): This portion of class will involve collective and individual readings of various texts, small group assignments, literature circles/classroom discussions, and independent work.

Homework briefing/Exit Ticket (5-10 min.): Students will be informed of their homework assignments and given an opportunity to ask questions for clarification. Some days before leaving, students will complete an exit ticket to reflect on the major points of the lesson.

Course Assessments:

Daily/HW/Quizzes (25%): Students will have periodic vocabulary and reading quizzes in addition to homework and other daily assignments. Occasional notebook checks will also occur.

Essays/Projects/Tests (50%): Out-of-class essays will be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman font and double-spaced. A specific writing prompt and further instructions will be given when papers are assigned. Students will receive handouts detailing requirements for both essays and projects. Students will receive handouts with rubrics for any projects or papers.

Exam (25%): Both nine-week exams and semester exams are cumulative.

Grading Policy:

- A. 100-90
- B. 89-80

C. 79-70

D. 69-60

F. 59 and below

This course will follow the HCSD grading scale as outlined on p.24 of the handbook. Students will follow the instructions for any make-up work located in **Procedures** section of this syllabus. Additionally, the makeup policy of the district will also be followed for this class. If a student is absent the day a **major assignment** is due (i.e. an essay), they must upload the assignment to Google classroom. Students will be allowed the same number of days to return the completed major assignment as the number of days missed from the class (i.e. missed two days= return all work within two days of returning to class). Otherwise, the major assignment will be deemed “late” and receive late penalties (*10% off every day the assignment is late*).

The student must make up all missed tests and quizzes before or after school. Students are to make arrangements with the teacher. **They have one week to make up a test or receive a zero for that test.** Students who must miss several days in a row due to illness need to consult with the teacher to make special arrangements for missed work. *Any student with ten or more unexcused days will not be allowed to make up missed work and will receive a zero for all missed work.*

Students must discuss with the instructor days they are available to make up any test or quizzes. **Quizzes not made up within two days will receive an automatic zero.**

The student will be required to retrieve missed work out of the makeup boxes, in front of the window. ***It is not the teacher’s responsibility to remind the student about any missed work.*** If a student has questions about missed work, he/she should first speak with another student and then plan to meet with the teacher before or after class. *The teacher will not stop class to re-teach the material missed by an individual student.*

Online Resources:

The instructor will frequently provide students with websites that will be useful throughout the course of the class. Students will be encouraged to use these sources to better improve their learning. Instructions and other information will be given separately to students.

Plagiarism:

Students who are caught cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in any other form of academic dishonesty are subject to receiving an automatic zero on the assessment/assignment in question. Plagiarism is defined as the intentional or unintentional use of another’s words and ideas without crediting the source.

Disclaimer:

The teacher reserves the right to adjust the course syllabus as needed.

Please sign and return this portion by Friday, January 11, 2018.

I have read and will comply with the course syllabus for English III.

Student name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Class Period: _____

Date: _____

I have read the course syllabus for English III, and I understand the expectations outlined for my child.

Parent name (printed): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____