

Course Syllabus: English III 2018-19

Chuck Nowland/Katie Owen

Course Description

English III combines a thematic, regional, and historical study of American literature and American culture. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical reading and writing skills that connect each student's own experience with the themes and ideas explored in the American literary tradition. In addition, this course will provide opportunities for improving research skills and preparing for the writing/vocabulary components of the SAT.

Assessment Targets

To read and discuss primarily from the authors, periods, forms, and works in American literature.

To broaden and enrich each student's educational experience through the imaginative, intellectual, and emotional engagement with culturally diverse literature.

To increase the ability to read and comprehend material of increasing complexity and difficulty.

To understand and analyze the elements of fiction as they contribute to meaning.

To expand vocabulary by determining word meanings through context clues, specialized dictionaries, and structural analysis.

To develop research and information access skills.

To write compositions reflecting rhetorical choices based on specific audiences, purposes, and modes.

To increase proficiency and knowledge of the writing process: use of idea-generating strategies, portfolio building, peer response, and revision techniques.

Course Outline

During our examination of the major connecting theme of the first semester, "The American Dream," students will read a variety of selections which promote an ongoing dialogue within sub-thematic units such as "Interpreting the American Dream: The Light and the Dark," "The American Renaissance: Poe, Dickinson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne," "American Journeys: Beginnings." The second semester's theme of "Discovering the American Character" deals with units on "The Literature of War," "The Moderns: Stories of Love and Life," our college/career research project, and "The Great Gatsby and Modern America."

Texts

All readings will be selected from our textbook, American Literature (Holt McDougal), or from the following literary works:

<u>Of Mice and Men</u> , John Steinbeck	*Please purchase a copy of this book.
<u>The Things They Carried</u> , Tim O'Brien	*Please purchase a copy of this book.
<u>The Great Gatsby</u> , F. Scott Fitzgerald	*Please purchase a copy of this book.

Materials

- 100 page composition book (Mead style) Please, no spirals.
- writing supplies and a notebook with dividers
- *paperbacks suggested for purchase

Grading Policy

According to school policy, the nine weeks' grade will be determined by weighing the average of daily grades/quizzes (40%) and the average of major grades (60%). Daily work includes homework, reading and vocabulary quizzes, and graded class work such as discussions and silent reading sessions. Major grades include tests, nine-week journals, compositions, and research projects.

Eligibility

In all cases, eligibility will follow UIL guidelines. Consult Student Handbook and UIL calendar.

Late Work

Homework is due at the beginning of class each day. Late work will only be accepted if it is accompanied with an excused absence. A student will be given as many days to complete assignments for each day absent. Major papers and projects lose ten points off the final grade. All research papers are due on the due date without exception.

Classroom Management

Students are expected to behave appropriately in class and follow all school rules as detailed in the Student Handbook. The "step procedure" will be followed in dealing with discipline problems as well as in cases of excessive tardiness. It is expected that a serious and positive learning environment will encourage students to be responsible for themselves and their work. It is also expected that a student-centered classroom with active participation by and interaction among students and the teacher will be consistently achieved.

Expectations

- *Be on time and be prepared.
- *Use technology to enhance our work. Inappropriate use of iPads/cell phones will not be tolerated.
- *Be courteous. Show respect for classmates, teachers, and substitute teachers: please do not talk while the teacher or a recognized student is talking.
- *Please do participate in discussions. Share your ideas when you are recognized as the speaker. Ask questions.
- *Think! Create! Explore! Engage! Encourage!

Conference Hours

Mr. Nowland: By appointment.
Mrs. Owen: By appointment.

Phone

Mr. Nowland: 732-9280 ext. 33323

Email and Websites

Nowland: cnowland@eanesisd.net Teacher websites: Westlake Staff Weebly--includes link to class calendar.

Owen: kowen@eanesisd.net