SYLLABUS

English III-Enriched

Instructor: Mrs. Dawn Lewis

Room: 313

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Texts: Elements of Literature, Book Three

Other books for the course include the following:

 *The Scarlet Letter*

*The Crucible*

 *The Great Gatsby*

 *Into the Wild (tentative)*

And literature circle books and teacher handouts

**You are expected to bring your book to class every day, unless told otherwise. I should not have to post a sign outside the room to remind you of this.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: English III focuses reading on American literature (fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry). This class is aligned with the Common Core standards for English Language Arts—11th grade. As this is an enriched class, I am assuming you will be going on to college or technical school after graduation, so I expect more from you that I would from a regular English III class. Work will be more in depth, and the pace will be quicker than that of a regular English III class.

Composition will involve studying the process of writing and practice in several different forms, including a research project. In addition, we will study grammar and vocabulary to assist with test preparation (PARCC and ACT). Technology will be used in this class extensively. You will begin each class period with a daily journal assignment for the first few minutes of class. Weekly blog comments will be required in place of AOWs. The blog can be reached through the website.

Literature studied will not only focus on literary elements present, but also the social and cultural backgrounds of the time period will be considered. Reading will be fast-paced, and outside reading will be required. Compositions may be based on the text being studied. It is important to keep up with the reading in order to participate in the activities related to the literature. Literature circles will be conducted once each quarter. You will responsible for completing the readings for your meetings, in addition to classwork.

Vocabulary packets will be distributed on Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday). Vocabulary quizzes will occur on Fridays. This is a bi-weekly grade (every other week). In addition, a weekly spelling test will be given from a list of commonly misspelled words provided by the teacher. Neglecting these two aspects of the class will have a negative impact on grades.

Traditional grammar will be studied. Students are expected to know (or learn) parts of speech, parts of a sentence, diagramming, and sentence combining. Punctuation, capitalization, and other features of mechanics will be reviewed. Other problems with style, word usage and clarity will be addressed.

Participation is important to this class. I will grade you on your participation in class discussions, journal writing, completion of work, your work in groups, and other activities. Your weekly participation grade will suffer if you are frequently absent or do not contribute to the class. Excessive phone use will lower your participation grade.

Speaking is a language art. You will be expected to give oral presentations, participate in group and class discussions and take part in Socratic Seminars and debates. I realize that the most common phobia is that of public speaking, but overcoming this fear will help you, as most of us take college classes or hold jobs that require us to speak (FYI—most colleges require you to take a public speaking class to graduate). If you enjoy talking in front of a group or want to conquer your fear, consider joining Speech and Debate Club.

Required supplies: binder with loose-leaf paper; tabbed dividers for binder; pen or pencil; spiral or other bound notebook (to be left in classroom for journal); internet access

Suggested supplies: Post-it flags; highlighters; flash drive

Grading: Grading will be based upon student participation, completion of homework, scores on quizzes, essays, and research project. Overall points will be used to calculate grades. All assignments will be posted on my website. Semester grades will be calculated as follows: First Quarter 40%; Second Quarter 40%; Final Exam 20%.

Absence policy: Excused absences must complete work within two days of return to school. However, if you are absent due to a field trip, assembly, school activity (including sporting events), or any other prior engagement (including dental, medical, or other appointments), your work is **still due**. You may turn work in to me before you leave, send it with another student, place it in my mailbox in the main office or email it to me no later than the time your class begins. Very simply, if you were on the school campus that day (even before school begins), your work is due. Unexcused absences will not be allowed to turn in missed work for credit. Excessive absences will have a detrimental effect on your grade.

Late policy: Late work will be accepted. Work will be considered late at any time after it is called for. It does not matter if it is late one minute or one day. Late work is penalized **one letter grade per day** it is late. This begins after work is collected. Do not make a habit of turning work in late!

I want to see you succeed this year, and I will do everything I can to make that happen. However, you have a responsibility here, too. You need to make sure your work is done (on time), and that you make up work you miss as soon as possible. I want to see you advance to the dual credit composition course your senior year, and perhaps take one of my literature courses (Gothic, Nonfiction, or British) for the other half of your English credit. If we work together, we can make that happen!