**English III: American Literature**

**Course Description and Class Policies**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to help you develop an understanding of United States Literature as a reflection of the society and history of this country. You will continue to build upon the skills you have accumulated in using language for expressive, expository, persuasive, literary, and technical purposes. The emphasis in English III is the critical analysis of texts through reading, writing, speaking, listening and using media. A major focus of the class is to draw meaningful connections between the literature and the history of this great country.

**Course Objective**: Upon completion of this course you will have demonstrated:

1. The ability to relate the experiences of others to your own
2. The capacity to inform an audience by using different media to research and explain insights into language and culture.
3. The use of critical analysis of text to develop opinions and connections, gain meaning, and synthesize ideas.
4. The ability to work in groups to present information about selected texts.
5. An understanding of vocabulary associated with the literature read in the course.

**Needed Supplies:**

1. School-issued Chromebook (fully charged!)
2. Three Ring Binder/Notebook with loose-leaf paper
3. Pencils, pens
4. Optional supplies include markers, coloring pencils, scissors, a ruler and highlighters.

**Course Outline:**

1. Readings- we will work together to read and understand texts from the textbooks and other outside sources. Specific reading selections are announced throughout the semester.
   1. Textbook Units:
      1. Puritans and Enlightenment
      2. Romanticism, Transcendentalism and Anti-transcendentalism
      3. Realism and Naturalism
      4. Modernism, Imagism and the Harlem Renaissance
      5. The Contemporary Period
   2. Novels/Plays:
      1. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
      2. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
      3. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
      4. *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
2. Viewing: we will supplement our study of literature through film. *See the Film Viewing Permission Form on signature page.*
3. Writing:
   1. Essays: Persuasive, Narrative, Analysis, and Research
   2. Class Notes
   3. Reactions to Literature
4. Vocabulary: will be incorporated throughout the semester. Assignments and due dates will be provided.
5. Individual, Partner, and Group Projects

**Classroom Policies:**

**Absences**:

* As always, the WCHS absence policy for number of absences applies in this classroom. In the event of an excused absence, it is your responsibility to talk to me either before or after school/class (not during class) about what you missed. ***It is your responsibility to turn in all assignments including makeup work on time.*** *Check my teacher website (*[*http://andreadecker.weebly.com*](http://andreadecker.weebly.com)*) to see what we are doing each day, and what work you might have missed.*

**Grading**:

* **Major grades: 60%** (unit tests, novel tests, papers, some projects) Tests are comprehensive and a major test follows each of the Textbook Units described in the Course Outline. Tests cover the material found in the textbook, handouts, and class discussion. It is essential that you come to class ready and willing to learn, keep up with assignments, and develop good study habits in order to be well prepared for the tests.
* **Minor grades: 40%** (literature quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, daily grades, homework, classwork, etc.) Quizzes may be announced or unannounced.

**Late Work**:

* Late Minor Grades/Assignments will be accepted *may* be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.
* One letter grade per day will be subtracted for late Major Grades/Assignments for up to 4 days. Work submitted after the 4th day cannot receive more than half of the total points given for the assignment. **After two weeks (10 school days)**, **No Late Work or Make-Up Work Will Be Accepted**.
* Work is considered late if it is submitted after the assigned time. For example, if the assignment is due during class and you don’t have it printed out but you bring it later that day, it is late.
* There are 6 ways for students to receive a zero for an assignment:

1. Failing to make up missed work in the allotted time,
2. Cheating on tests, group assignments, or individual assignments,
3. Skipping class on the day of a major assignment/ assessment,
4. Plagiarizing
5. Submitting an assignment too late
6. Failing to turn in work

**Make-Up Work**:

* It is your responsibility to make up all missed work in a timely fashion. The general policy is that you are given one day’s grace for every day that you missed.
* Check my web page daily for homework/classwork assignments, quizzes, and tests (<http://andreadecker@weebly.com>).
* Most quiz dates, all major test dates, project due dates, and paper due dates are announced well in advance. If you are absent on one of those dates, you are expected to arrange make-up time as soon as possible. Since these assignments and assessments dates are known in advance, you will generally be required to complete them or turn them in on the day that you return. This includes tests and/or quizzes that you may be required to complete during class on the day you return.
* School activities such as sporting events or field trips do not excuse you from turning in work on time. Make arrangements prior to the absence.

**Restudy/Retest English Department Policy:**

* To encourage students to become accountable for their actions, teachers pledge to review thoroughly before major tests and to provide extra help before the test. Teachers ask that students likewise pledge to study adequately before major tests.
* Because teachers want to prepare students for the rigors of the real world and for college, there will be no retests unless specified in a student’s IEP or 504 plan. All modifications stated in these plans will be followed.

**Cheating:**

Cheating is defined as taking deliberate and deceptive action for the purpose of dishonorably earning a grade or some other advantage on an assignment.  Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

* Copying answers from someone else’s assignment/test that is not authorized group or paired work
* Using your notes, cell phone, or textbook on/during a test/quiz
* Giving someone else the answers to a test
* Taking a test for someone else
* Helping someone on an assignment that is supposed to be individualized work
* Borrowing or purchasing a research paper and/or project and submitting it as your own
* Skipping class on a day a major assignment/assessment is due

**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating in which students do not give proper credit to their sources, whether intentional or not.  Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

* Using someone’s exact words, thoughts, ideas, or images in your paper or project without the use of quotation marks and a citation both parenthetically and in your works cited page.
* Summarizing or paraphrasing someone’s words, thoughts, or ideas in your paper without giving the author credit (with a citation) both parenthetically and in your works cited page.
* Copying and pasting parts from the Internet and claiming the result as your original work. You must use proper citations for information from the Web.

Consequences for cheating include a zero for the assignment, a discipline referral, parent and principal notification, and a *U* on conduct.

*If in doubt, always ask your teacher to clarify an assignment!*

**Cell phones** are not allowed in class. Per WCHS policy, no cell phones are to be seen or heard from the moment a student walks in into the building until after the final bell.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

* Be PROMPT: arrive to class on time with all necessary materials, assignments, and supplies. This includes your fully charged, school-issued Chromebook.
* Be PREPARED: participate and learn every day. Keep conversations and questions pertinent to the class and be an active, positive contributor to class discussions.
* Be RESPONSIBLE: follow instructions the first time they are given, keep up with assignments, and turn in all work when due.
* Be RESPECTFUL: show courtesy and respect to your teacher, your fellow students, WCHS, and the property that belongs to each. You do not have the right to interfere with classroom instruction or another student’s learning. You are expected to follow all classroom and school rules; refer to your student handbook.

***Keep this document in the front of your English III Notebook for future reference throughout the semester.***

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/Class Period\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURES:**

Your signatures below indicate that you (Student AND Parent/Guardian) have read and reviewed Mrs. Decker’s Course Description and Class Policy Guidelines for English III. You should keep the Class Policy sheet in the front of your English III binder for referral throughout the semester. This signed sheet will be kept on file.

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Student Name (Please Print) Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) Parent/Guardian Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Email Address Parent/Guardian Telephone

**FILM VIEWING PERMISSION FORM**

As part of the curriculum for English III, all or some part of the films listed below may be shown. If your child has permission to view the film, please check YES beside the film title. If you *do not* want your child to view the film, please check NO beside the film title. An alternate assignment will be available to those students without viewing permission.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Video Title** | **Rating** | **Permission to View?** |
| *The Crucible* (1996) | PG-13 | □ Yes □ No |
| *The Great Gatsby* (1974 and 2013) | PG-13 | □ Yes □ No |
| *Of Mice and Men* (1992) | PG-13 | □ Yes □ No |
| *A Raisin in the Sun* (1961 and 2008) | Not Rated | □ Yes □ No |
| *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967) | Not Rated | □ Yes □ No |
| *Cinderella Man* (2005) | PG-13 | □ Yes □ No |
| *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (2005) | TV-14 | □ Yes □ No |
| *The Great Debaters* (2007) | PG-13 | □ Yes □ No |

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date