

Course Overview: English 11

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Course Description:

This course is designed to reinforce the foundations of communication – listening, speaking, reading, and writing – cloaked in critical thinking. In real-people language, that means that we’ll expose ourselves to new ideas, we’ll generate ideas of our own, and we’ll continue to develop ways of communicating those to others.

Our focus will be on literary analysis, a means of reading texts deeply and from a variety of perspectives, and on writing, with the hope that such endeavors will prepare us well to be citizens of an ever-changing world. So, whether you wish to be a mechanic, a master chef, an MD, or a monk, these skills will serve you well.

Major Texts:

We will examine the effect of time period and cultural context on literary works and attempt to identify how the over-arching theme of the American Dream finds its way into “our stories.” The course is divided into three significant thematic units: *Contrasting Visions (Puritan era through Post-Modernism)*, *Growing Up American Style*, and *Diversity, Dissent & Discord*. Major texts include:

The Crucible by Arthur Miller
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Fences by August Wilson
A Fault in Our Stars by John Greene

(And *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. Yes, it’s NOT American Lit, but he’s Will “The Thrill” Shakespeare, baby, so we’ll dip our toes into those British waters.)

Plus additional works of short fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama (stage/film/TV)

Assignments:

- √ Reading like your life depends on it (which it does)
- √ Moderate writing assignments & full-blown essays
- √ Group & individual projects/exhibitions
- √ Journals and daily assignments (Need 2 notebooks: 1 for notes & 1 for journal)
- √ Exams & Quizzes
- √ Research projects

Over →

Assessment:

Grades are calculated as a percentage of total points for the term, with larger assignments garnering more points (e.g. exams, essays & large projects typically = 100 points; lighter written work such as daily homework & quizzes typically = 10 to 50 points). So, if there are 1,000 points available and you receive 900, then you have 90%.

You will also receive a *Contribution Grade* every quarter totaling 50 points. This will assess your active participation in class discussions. For this assessment you can receive the following points: *Leader* = 50, *Also Ran* = 37, *Spectator* = 25. If you have concerns about your ability to share in class discussions, you can see me about supplementing your contribution with written work that I will copy to share with the rest of our learning community.

NO LATE WORK: You must submit all daily work on time or receive no credit. Deadlines matter outside our classroom walls, so they should matter inside our walls, as well. To be an active citizen in a democracy, you must meet the very important deadline of getting to the polls on election day, or your voice will not be heard. If you have your act together, however, there is an exception called an Absentee Ballot, a concept we will discuss in class & incorporate into this policy.

You must submit all major written work to pass the course. It is FHS English Department policy that late submission of major work will receive a 10% grade reduction for each late day. We will abide by that policy.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is stealing someone else's ideas or work and presenting them as your own. It is a serious offense which is unethical, violates the rules of student conduct, and may be a violation of copyright law. Whenever you borrow information for a paper, you must give proper reference and cite your sources. This gives proper credit to the creator of the work, it allows the reader to locate the original information, and it lends credibility to your work.

IF YOU PLAGIARIZE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THAT ASSIGNMENT AND, POTENTIALLY, A FAILING GRADE FOR THAT TERM.

Expectations:

Responsibility.....Have it
Respect.....Exhibit and earn it
Rip-Roarin' Fun...Enjoy it

(Student signature)

(Parent/Guardian signature)