

Ms. Nourse

Room: 25

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Office Hours: before school or by appointment

Planning: 5th Period

English III 2016- 2017

St. Paul High School

**"The more that you read, the more things  
that you know. The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go."**

**- Dr. Seuss**

## Welcome to English III: American Literature

### COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to American Literature! In this course, you will engage in reading and analyzing American Literature from the origins of the country to the present day. In order to better contextualize what we read, we will be integrating other disciplines with our reading of prose, poetry, and drama. The course is organized thematically and you will be asked to consider the historical, social, and political ramifications of the literature we read. You will read critically, write argumentatively, make presentations and engage with research and technology. This course is geared to prepare you for the high expectations of post-secondary courses and, as such, will be reading and writing intensive.

### RULES:

1. Come to class each day with all required materials.
2. Be in assigned seat at the bell and stay in seat during class.
3. Be in proper dress code at all times.
4. No food or eating in class. If you have a drink, it must have a lid.
5. All cell phones, tablets, laptops, iPods, etc should be off and out of sight unless we are using it as part of class. Unapproved use of devices in class means you will lose your device for the day and be issued a detention.
6. Keep your hands to yourself. Do not touch other students or their belongings.
7. Leave anything that could distract you or your classmates in your backpack or locker.

### EXPECTATIONS:

1. Students will show respect to other students and teacher at all times.
2. Students will show a consistent high level of responsibility and age appropriate behavior.
3. Students will come each day ready to learn and grow as speakers, readers, writers and listeners.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. A one subject notebook or lots of loose-leaf paper
2. Two- pocket folder or three ring binder
3. Blue or black pens or pencils
4. Post-It Notes
5. Highlighters

### HOMEWORK

All homework and assignments should be attempted and completed in full prior to entering class. If you are struggling with an assignment, please do not hesitate to ask for help. Coming to class and then saying you did not understand the assignment will not excuse you from completing the assignment nor will you receive credit. You can email me anytime with questions at [rnourse@ncsmail.com](mailto:rnourse@ncsmail.com). Students who

repeatedly fail to turn in homework will be given homework violations.

## VOCABULARY

Throughout the school year, we will work on improving vocabulary through direct vocabulary instruction. Most Mondays you will be given ten words to define for homework. We will work with these words through the remainder of the week so that you become familiar with how to use them correctly in a sentence. A quiz will be given on Friday to assess your understanding of the words. These quizzes will ask you to fill in a sentence with the correct word. However, I will also give you two words from the previous unit and you will have to write your own sentences using those words.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

When there is assigned reading homework you are expected to complete it AND fully understand what you have read. This may require you to read a particular piece more than once. Your understanding of the reading (both in and outside of class) will be assessed on frequent reading check quizzes. You are responsible for your performance on those quizzes so make sure you understand what you are asked to read. Taking notes, looking up unknown words, and writing down questions as you read are excellent strategies to use if you find yourself struggling to comprehend a text. Please come see me and we can discuss these and other comprehension strategies!

### \*\*\*\*NOTE ON SPARKNOTES/ SHMOOP/ GRADESAVER/ WIKIPEDIA\*\*\*\*

These websites should never replace your actual reading of a text. In fact, these sites can be a hindrance because they provide the analysis for you, which means you do not learn how to read and analyze texts on your own. They can narrow your understanding of a text by providing only that contributors' analysis when other interpretations could be plausible. *Additionally, taking ideas from these sites and using them in any papers you are assigned to write is a form of plagiarism.* See the consequences of plagiarism on page 15 of the Student Handbook.



"I'm listing my deadlines by due date so I can miss them in chronological order."

## LATE WORK

For every day a major assignment is late you will lose 10% off that grade, however, deductions will not exceed 50%. Thus, you are expected to complete ALL assignments, but you will not get more than a 50% for work that is a week late. Failure to complete any homework assignment is a zero.

If you are absent (and it is excused) you will be given the number of days you were gone to complete the work without penalty. I will let you know about major due dates at least one week in advance and you will be expected to have your assignment

complete at the beginning of class on that day. If you are absent the day a major assignment is due, there are a variety of ways to turn in the assignment and ensure you do not lose any points.

- Email me the assignment
- Send the assignment with a class mate
- Have a parent or guardian drop off assignment in my school mailbox.

## CLASS WEBSITE

I have a class webpage at [www.rachelnourse.weebly.com](http://www.rachelnourse.weebly.com) where you will be able to find our class calendar and additional resources. The calendar has our tentative schedule so that you can see what you will be learning in the weeks ahead. Please note that things may change if we lose class time or our lessons

progress at a different pace than anticipated. I will update the calendar at the start of each week to accurately reflect where we are in the course curriculum.

## EMAIL

Email is the best way to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. My email is [rnourse@ncsmail.org](mailto:rnourse@ncsmail.org). I check my email frequently and respond as quickly as I can.

## POWERSCHOOL

I will update Power School with your grades as often as possible. I will try to put minor assignment grades and quizzes in the gradebook within a day or two. Major papers and projects will likely take longer to grade accurately and fairly. I will try to get grades for these assignments back to you within two weeks.

## MAJOR PAPERS

Generally, there will be one major paper with each unit we complete. All major papers will be worth 100 points each.

All major papers are to be typed and follow MLA formatting guidelines. That means that your papers will be double spaced, written in 12- point font and have approximately 1- inch margins. You will need to head your paper as follows:

	Last Name Page Number
Your Name	
Teacher's Name	
Class Name	
Date	
Title of Paper	
Start each paragraph of your paper indented one time. Do NOT put extra spaces between paragraphs. Please double space all papers.	

Proper MLA formatting also requires you to have a Works Cited page at the end of your paper that accurately attributes any outside sources you used. Failing to attribute sources is plagiarism.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Assignments for this class will be separated into the following categories and weighted accordingly in the gradebook.

- Tests/ Projects: 30%
- Papers: 30%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Class Assignments/ HW: 20%

## GRADING PHILOSOPHY

A: Exceptional Work: A student has gone above and beyond the assignment in terms of effort and insight.  
B: Above Average Work: Solid effort and intelligent insight is obvious in the assignment.

C: Average Work: A student has completed the required components with effort and insight.  
D: Below Average Work: A student has not met the requirements for the assignment, but some effort was evident.  
F: Unsatisfactory Work: A student has not met the requirements of the assignment and/or little effort is evident.

## DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to act in a manner befitting their age and reflecting positively on St. Paul High School. I will adhere to the policies outlined in the St. Paul Disciplinary Handbook. As high schoolers, you are capable of acting like adults and I will expect no less from you. You are expected to behave appropriately during all class activities and to show responsibility and respect to your classmates, yourself and your teacher. Any actions that are counter to this will be dealt with swiftly and in accordance with the disciplinary code.

## PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in any form. This course is designed to teach you to express your own ideas and that is what I want to hear most. I do not want to hear what some professor, teacher or other student thinks of a text we are reading. I will be very disappointed to find anyone plagiarizing material or cheating in any other form. Please refer to page 15 of the St. Paul Student Handbook for a full description of plagiarism.

The consequence for plagiarism/ cheating is disciplinary action from the administration as well as redoing the assignment. The possible point value for a resubmitted assignment is at the discretion of the teacher. A student caught cheating will never get more than a 50% on any resubmitted assignment.

Before you turn in any major assignment, you will handwrite St. Paul's Ethics Statement at the bottom of the last page. By writing and signing this statement, you acknowledge that you know what plagiarism is and that you have not committed plagiarism in your paper.

## TARDINESS

Tardiness is not acceptable. All students are expected to be in their assigned seat at the start of class with all materials needed for the class. Do not expect to be able to leave class to use the restroom or get forgotten homework or books. If you are tardy, you need to have a note from the office or another teacher to be admitted to class. Per the Student Handbook, any student receiving two tardies in one quarter will be issued a detention.

## Unit Overview for the Year

Unit 1: *Raisin in the Sun*

Unit 2: *The Great Gatsby*

Unit 3: *Of Mice and Men*

Unit 4: Multigenre Project

Unit 6: *Fahrenheit 451*

Unit 7: Argumentative Research Paper

Unit 8: Short Stories and Poetry

Unit 9: *The Things They Carried*

**"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it"**  
- Oscar Wilde

