**201**6**-201**7

**Course Overview for English III**

**Dripping Springs High School**

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**Description:**

English III is a thematic survey of American literature designed to include the study of grammar/usage, composition, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, higher level thinking skills, and preparation for college entrance exams.

**Goals:** Upon completing this course, students should be able to

* Analyze a variety of genres (novels, essays, plays, poetry, short stories, etc.).
* Analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding
* Complete a variety of writing assignments to specific audiences for specific purposes.
* Use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to compose text.
* Determine, locate, and explore the full range of relevant sources addressing a research question and systematically record the information they gather.
* Recognize and use SAT vocabulary in writing assignments.
* Understand the function of and use the conventions of academic language when speaking and writing.

**Materials you will need daily for this course:**

* blue or black pens, #2 pencils
* highlighters
* composition notebook **for English only**
* 1 ½”- 2” three-ring binder (sections for vocabulary, notes/handouts, assignments)

**Grading:** Grades are divided into two areas: formative and summative.

Formative Items: 30% Weight

1. Homework/Daily Grades 1

2. Quizzes 1-2

3. Smaller projects 2-4

Summative Items: 70% Weight

1. Projects/Presentations 1-3

2. Essays 1-3

3. Tests 1-3

**Make-up Work:**

1. Students must make-up work when absent.

2. Any assistance or further explanation from the teacher can be obtained during tutorials or with an

 appointment. Tutorials are offered Monday – Thursday from 8:20 to 8:50 a.m. Friday tutorials

 are dependent on meetings. After school tutorials are available by appointment.

3. Students who are absent have a maximum time to complete make-up work and/or assessments

 equal to the number of consecutive days missed by the student. Previously announced projects

 must be turned in upon the student’s return to school.

4. Students should make arrangements with the teacher to make-up quizzes and/or tests in a timely

 manner. Failure to do so, will result in a zero.

5. Students who will be absent from school for school-sponsored extracurricular activities shall

 request assignments and assessment information from their teachers in advance of the absence.

 Assigned work and/or assessments missed due to a school-sponsored extracurricular absence shall

 be due upon the student’s return to class unless arrangements are made with the teacher in advance

 of the absence. Additional days are at the discretion of the teacher if arrangements are made in

 advance.

6. Make-up work is the STUDENT’S responsibility.

**English Department Grading Policies:**

1. Daily work is due on the assigned date.
2. Long Term Due Dates: projects and assignments with long term due dates will receive a 3-day window of opportunity for submission. There will be a due date and then a deadline. Anything turned in after the due date will receive a penalty. Day 1 of the window or on the due date, the assignment is worth 100 points. Day 2 the assignment is worth 80 points before grading. Day three the assignment is worth 70 points before grading. Any assignments received after the deadline is a zero.
3. For presentations, a 25 point grade deduction will be assessed each day it is late.
4. Mechanical failures such as printers breaking, ink depletion, computers crashing are not an acceptable excuse to miss a deadline since deadlines are given in advance and with a three day window. As a rule of thumb, do not wait to print something the night before it is due.
5. Use the library to print out documents. Teachers cannot print documents for students. So plan to print the item well before it is due. It is better to turn in a hand-written copy than nothing at all.

6. All assignments are due at the beginning of the period.

Note: In case of emergencies, mishaps, errors of judgment, writer’s block, busy schedules, etc., each student will be given three coupons per semester which he/she may use to turn in a homework assignment one day late. Once these have been used or lost, there is no alternative to the zero.

**Novels and Plays Reserved**

* *The Crucible-* Arthur Miller
* *The Great Gatsby*- F. Scott Fitzgerald
* *Of Mice and Men*- John Steinbeck
* *The Catcher in the Rye*- J. D. Salinger

Note:

* Items may be added or deleted as necessary.
* Major works will be complemented with other various pieces of literature.
* Prior to students reading the literary selections listed above, parents may wish to review the content of the material.

**Topics/Units:**

Each nine weeks will include: reading, writing, grammar (mechanics, usage, sentence structure), and vocabulary.

* We will cover selections from major American literary periods: Native American, Enlightenment, Revolutionary War, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, Modernism, and Contemporary. We will test over each unit and have a cumulative time period exam each semester.
* We will be doing a variety of writing assignments including: a personal narrative, creative pieces, in-class essays, a research paper, and rhetorical analysis.
* You will be assigned additional projects for enrichment; therefore, you must plan to spend time and effort on these projects outside of class.
* To help prepare for college entrance exams such as the SAT and the ACT, we will devote some class time to exercises and practices for test preparation.
* Assignments, handouts, and graded work should be saved for review purposes.
* **Tests are cumulative**. This means that major exams will have review questions from previous units. Carry-over material from the first semester consists of two things: literary terms and fallacies.
* We will include critical viewing of non-print and print media such as Internet, documentaries, and movies.

**Class rules:**

1. Students should be in the classroom when the tardy bell BEGINS to ring and be ready to work.

2. Students should bring appropriate materials and books to class daily.

3. Students have full responsibility for obtaining and returning make-up work.

4. Students should turn in class work and homework on time.

5. Students should remain in class during the entire period; and therefore, students should take care of any personal business before class begins.

6. Students should use electronic devices at the instruction/discretion of the teacher. Any devices used otherwise will be confiscated and turned into the office. Teachers reserve the right to collect phones during quizzes/tests.

7. Students should treat their classmates and teacher with respect and be courteous.

8. Students should help create and maintain a positive and safe learning environment.

9. Students should treat personal and school property with respect.

10. Students should not plagiarize or cheat or share their work with other students.

According to the *DSHS Student Handbook*:

“Academic misconduct includes academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. Academic misconduct is considered both an academic and a non-academic behavior issue. Grades on

assignments that are plagiarized or that were earned through academic misconduct do not accurately reflect the level of the student’s academic achievement. The determination that a student has engaged in academic misconduct will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students. A grade of zero will be recorded for these assignments.” An extended day is also part of the discipline action for academic misconduct.

Our Department Clarification:

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you use other people’s words or ideas (pictures, art, charts, graphs, computations, scientific data, music, etc.) as your own by failing to credit the others at all or by improperly crediting them. If you use someone else’s exact words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the person credit by revealing the source in a citation. Even if you revise, rearrange, or paraphrase the words pretending the words or ideas you still must give them credit instead of pretending the words or ideas are your own. Your teachers will instruct you how to properly credit your sources.

While some plagiarism is obviously intentional and some might be considered unintentional (missing or improper citation due to carelessness, often because of hurrying to do an assignment at the last minute), both types are still subject to the same penalties. If in doubt, ask your teacher before you turn in your assignment!

Unless your teacher specifically tells you that you may work with other students on an

assignment, you are expected to work on all assignments by yourself, using only your own

thoughts, ideas and reasoning.

**NOTE FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR:**

Study guides such a SparkNotes are probably available for most major works read. Study guides,

however, are not always reliable sources for information about or interpretation of works. The writers

of these guides are often college students doing a part-time job, and they make significant mistakes.

The intelligent approach, obviously, is to read the primary source (the work itself) and to attempt

analysis and interpretation for yourself. Study guides are appropriate only for review or, occasional,

clarification. Assignments, tests and essays are based on primary texts. Also, be careful to avoid

plagiarizing these sources.

**Penalties:**  The above rules are essential for good classroom management. When a rule is broken, whether in or out of school, we expect to pay a penalty. A conference with the student will result in a warning and discussion of the proper penalty such as detention. If the problem persists, then a call or conference with a parent or parents may be necessary. I prefer to use the assistant principal only for serious or repeated offenses.

**Merits:** If the student follows the rules, I pledge him or her an excellent education, improved self-discipline and confidence, and the mutual respect of his or her teacher and peers.

**The course overview is meant to inform you and your parents of the workload and responsibilities that come with the curriculum. *Please sign, date, and return this page to indicate that you (student and parent) have read the requirements for English III.***

**2016-17**

**Madeleine Connolly, Chrissy Hinkle, and Molly Whiting**

***Please fill out this sheet and return it to your teacher by Friday, August 26th.***

**We have read this overview that outlines the content and requirements for English III.**

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###### ***Print student’s name***

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### ***Student’s signature Class period Date***

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***Print parent’s name***

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***Parent’s signature Date***

**If there is any additional information you would like me to know, please put it below:**