**English III H Syllabus**

**Overview**: This course focuses on strengthening reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through the study of a variety of American literature and nonfiction texts. Our time together will take the form of discussion, lecture, reading, analysis, interpretation, research, argument, vocabulary, and writing. This course will also provide a review of grammar, mechanics, and usage as you continue to refine your writing and editing skills through the completion of research papers, essays, narratives, poems, journal entries, and reflections. Homework and classwork is designed as a springboard for the following day’s lesson and/or to reinforce a lesson or unit of study.

**Classroom Expectations**: This course is designed to ensure success to students who work hard and follow classroom rules and procedures.

* Adhere to all HSHS school-wide expectations
* Refrain from interrupting the learning process
* Treat your teacher and classmates with respect

**Reading:** The following novels, plays, biographies and textbooks will be used:

* *The Great Gatsby*  F. Scott Fitzgerald
* *Into the Wild* John Krakauer
* *Of Mice and Men* John Steinbeck
* Short Story and Poetry Selections from *Holt Elements of Literature, Fifth Course*

**Homework**: Homework will be assigned occasionally, but will most often take the form of reading, and completing in-class assignments.

**Materials and texts:** Students will need a three-ring binder with college-ruled paper, two notebooks (one for notes and one for journals), and pens/pencils.

**Teacher Website**: Students and parents can access a weekly schedule, as well as important dates, class handouts, and homework assignments at the instructor’s teacher website.

**Sustained Silent Reading:** The first ten minutes of EVERY (other than quiz/test days) class will be reserved for sustained silent reading (SSR). Students – and the instructor – will SILENTY read a book of his or her choice during this period of time. SSR is designed to build reading stamina and foster interest in the written word. It is the most crucial element to each student’s success in English III. SSR follow-ups will include conferences, book chats and journal entries, in addition to other activities.

**Grading and Reporting:** Any student missing work, falling behind in reading, or failing the course will be invited to and expected to attend HOT Lunch tutorials. Any student missing a test must take that test during the next available tutorial. Failure to attend an assigned tutorial will result in an administrative referral.

**Grading Categories:**

Major assessments: 50%

Major assignments include but are not limited to tests, essay assignments, and unit projects/presentations.

Minor assessments: 35%

Minor assessments include but are not limited to quizzes (announced and unannounced), special homework/classwork assignments (at the teacher’s discretion).

Homework/Class work: 15%

Includes work assigned in class and as homework

**Late Work:** When absent, students will see me upon returning to school for missed assignments and instruction. Late assignments are penalized 8% per day late and will earn a maximum grade of 60% after five days. Each benchmark test marks the end of a period in which any late work will be accepted.

**Ensuring Success**: Students who are successful in this class will:

* Be a positive, active, participatory member of the class
* Understand how American Literature is reflective of American culture
* Recognize and explain the commonalities and differences between multiple texts
* Identify and use specific literary terms and techniques
* Complete a variety of written works, from quick reflections to research papers
* Understand and use writing as a process through which you will generate, communicate, and organize ideas
* Edit and revise your own writing
* Actively read assigned texts, both in and out of class
* As questions and seek answers

**Welcome to my class!**

**Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and understand the expectations and procedures of this class.**

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 **Student’s signature please print name here**

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 **Parent's or guardian's signature please print name here**

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 **Parent’s email address**