



AGOURA HIGH SCHOOL

Las Virgenes Unified School District

August 2019

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year! I am pleased to welcome you to my English III class. During junior year, students gain greater personal responsibility as they strive to meet higher academic expectations and begin to more seriously consider options for careers and post-secondary education. During this intensive, college-preparatory course, students will continue building necessary skills for successful high school completion *and* post-secondary paths. Students will work on becoming critical and creative thinkers, strong problem solvers, and effective communicators in both the spoken and written word.

As an educator, I value learning that is both rigorous in nature and relevant to life. As such, we will be making real-life applications of course content and engaging in varied learning activities throughout the year. We will delve into various works of American literature from early Native American to modern. We will demystify the writing process and apply it to create and hone analytic, in-depth compositions. Finally, we will strengthen communication and oral skills through class discussions, presentations, and college preparatory vocabulary and grammar.

To become successful in this class, it is critical for students to stay atop their academic responsibilities. Students are expected to arrive to class prepared and to attend support period when needed. I also strongly encourage students and parents to use our class website (dmunther.weebly.com) as a tool to stay current with all homework assignments and activities. For regular updates on student performance and grades, please visit Aeries online.

Please know that I hold high expectations for my students' conduct and academic growth. On the enclosed document, you will find further information on course policies, texts, and required materials. Please read the enclosed documents closely and return the attached form by the designated due date.

I am excited to begin a productive and enjoyable year. Welcome to English III!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Munther



English III CP Course Policies & Expectations

Mrs. Munther

Email: dmunther@lvusd.org

Website: dmunther.weebly.com

Room: V202

Overview

English III is a comprehensive, college preparatory course that is based on themes in American literature. This course emphasizes analytic thinking, reading, writing, and discussion-based speaking. During this course, students will continue their study of vocabulary and grammar; they will explore novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction; and they will heavily focus on the development of their formal writing skills. Several thematic and analytical essays will be completed during the first semester and will be followed second semester by the construction of the Junior Literary Research Project (JLRP). An important goal of this course is to promote a thorough understanding of American literature in its cultural/historical context and of the enduring human values that unite the works therein.

Core Texts

Note: All texts are subject to change.

- *StudySync ELA* (McGraw-Hill Education)
- *Into the Wild* (Krakauer)
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Twain)
- *The Red Badge of Courage* (Crane)
- *The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald)
- Outside Reading Texts

In addition to the core texts, units will be supplemented with additional fiction and non-fiction literature, as well as a selection of visual and performing arts in each of the following units of study:

- Rhetorical Analysis
- Early American
- Puritans & Colonialism
- The Revolutionary Period
- The Romantic Period
- Realism
- Modernism

Classroom Expectations

- Responsibility: Be responsible for your thoughts and actions.
- Respect: Display respectful behavior towards yourself and others.
- Rigorous Effort: Give your best.

(Basically, strive for integrity.)

Supplies

The following supplies are recommended in class daily for success:

- Editing pen (red or green)
- Highlighters (6 colors)
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Pens (black or blue) & Pencils
- Laptops (required)
- Texts (required)

Academic Integrity

ANY form of academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to plagiarism (the use of another person's words *or* ideas without giving credit to the rightful source) and cheating of any kind. (Please also see the Academic Honesty Policy located on the AHS website.) Furthermore, students are required to submit work to turnitin.com.

Athletics & School Activities

Athletes and students missing class for field trips and other school-related activities are expected to submit all assignments by the assignment deadline. If a student is dismissed early for an activity, s/he must submit the assignment before departing. Furthermore, students must return prepared for class (i.e. arrive prepared for all class activities, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.)

Attendance Policy

See the student handbook for school policies; 6 unexcused tardies or 3 unexcused absences result in a drop/fail.

Make-up Policy

- Work may only be made up by students who have an excused absence. Students must make up work asap. *All* students, whether absent or not, are responsible for completing daily assigned readings and arriving to class prepared for any quizzes on covered/assigned material whether or not they were absent the previous class period. This is critical to your success in class.
- Daily Log: Absent students should refer to the in-class Daily Log for information on what they missed.
- Tests/quizzes: Immediately upon returning to class, students must schedule an appointment to make up a missed test/quiz.

Grading Policy

Course letter grades are based upon the following percentages and are non-negotiable:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>
100-90%	89.9-80%	79.9-70%	69.9-60%	59.9-0%

Course scores are based on the following weighted scale:

- Writing & Reading 65%
- Speaking & Listening 20%
- Vocabulary & Grammar 15%

As established by AHS English Department Policy, there is no extra credit or rounding up of grades. Example: an 89.9% is a “B+.”

“Speaking & Listening” criteria is on my website for your careful review.

Due Dates & Deadlines

- Short term assignments: Homework assignments are designed to be used in class the following period. To be successful, it is critical that you keep pace with course content by completing all work on time.
- Long-term assignments: Long-term assignments, such as essays and projects, must be received by the teacher on or before the assignment deadline, *even if absent*. If a student is absent on the day of the deadline, s/he must submit the assignment *via email by the deadline* with no exceptions.

Academic Assistance

I am on campus Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. If you need help, ask! I encourage open communication and strongly recommend that you use support period to be successful. I may also be contacted via email or by apt.

In addition to attending support with me in room V202, you may also seek additional help by visiting peer tutors in the English Honors Society (T-F at support in K-2)

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT FORM
English III CP

Please complete the below and keep the policies and expectations portion for your reference.

I have read and understand the information contained in the English III CP Course Policies & Expectations, and I agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained therein.

Student name (printed): _____ Period: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Parent/Guardian name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Additional Information

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Student email: _____

Home phone number: (____) _____ - _____

If there is anything more you would like me to know as it relates to your student's success in this class, please discuss below: