

***English 3-4  
Course Syllabus  
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Room A-211***

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***“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” –Aristotle***

We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards. Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student.

**Course Description:**

This course uses various literary genres, including the short story, novel, drama, poetry, and an emphasis of non-fiction to meet the Iowa Core Standards. The introduction and investigation of societal issues helps to drive each unit. Reading, writing, speaking, technology, and listening skills will be incorporated into each unit. Students will read and analyze literature to clarify their own beliefs and values. In addition to literary study, students engage in argumentative, narrative, expository, creative and personal writing, as well as research and literary analysis. Class discussion is an integral part of class. Vocabulary, grammar and usage, and other composition skills will be emphasized as a continuation of English 1-2.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning, and assessment are built on the 9-10th grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Language Strands.

**Iowa Core Standards**

**Standard 1: Reading Strand - Literature**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

**Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

**Standard 3: Writing**

Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

**Standard 4: Speaking and Listening**

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

**Standard 5: Language**

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening. **Course Description**

This course uses a thematic approach to literary genres: short story, novel, drama, poetry, and non-fiction. Reading, writing, speaking, technology, and listening skills will be incorporated into each unit. Students will read and

analyze literature to clarify their own beliefs and values with a focus on literature from around the world. In addition to literary study, students engage in argumentative, narrative, expository, creative and personal writing, as well as research and literary analysis. Class discussion is an integral part of class. Vocabulary, grammar and usage, and other composition skills will be emphasized as a continuation of English 1-2. Alignment of the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning, and assessment are built on the 9-10th grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Language Strands.

**Materials:** You will need to bring your textbook/novel, pen/pencil, paper, an English binder or folder, your student agenda, and a positive attitude to class each day. The core text for the class is: *Glencoe Literature: The Reader's Choice, Course Five*. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill 2002. Our textbook will be supplemented with the following: *Of Mice and Men: John Steinbeck, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Mark Twain, To Kill a Mockingbird: Harper Lee, Night: Elie Wiesel, Tuesdays with Morrie: Mitch Albom and The Glass Menagerie: Tennessee Williams.*

**Class Rules:** #1 Show respect to everyone in class, #2 Homework should be turned in on time, #3 Follow directions the first time given, #4 Bring materials to class each day, #5 Food and drink are not allowed in the classroom.

**Assignments:** Everything you do in this class counts. Due dates will be given for all assignments. Assignments handed in late will not be given full credit. It is your responsibility to obtain make-up work when absent from class and to complete that work in a timely fashion.

**Tests/Quizzes:** These must be taken on the day announced. If you miss a test or quiz, you must arrange a make-up time as soon as possible. Failure to make-up a test or a quiz will result in a zero. Any cell phone being used during a test or quiz will be considered as a form of cheating and an "F" will be given.

**Grading:** Your grade is based on your daily work in class, homework, tests, quizzes, and class participation. Point values are assigned to each and converted to a percent at the end of the quarter.

### **Grading Scale:**

A 93-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-77%	D 63-66%
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%
B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 59%

**Tardiness/Absences:** Refer to your student handbook for school policies.