



Contact Information

Mr. Fischer

Room D-159

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Free Hour: 7th

Honors English 3-4

Course Syllabus

“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 a thematic approach to literary genres: short story, novel, drama, poetry, and non-fiction. Students move at a faster pace and are provided enrichment activities and assignments in this course. 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 expository, 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 Honors 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.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS: American literature will be approached chronologically and selections will be studied in depth. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and technology will be incorporated into each unit. Composition skills will be emphasized as a continuation of the material studied in Honors English 1-2 and as a prelude to AP Language/Composition and AP Literature/Composition.

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.

ASSESSMENTS:

- * Study guides
- * Reading and vocabulary quizzes
- * Journal responses
- * Class discussions/“Socratic Circles”
- * Projects and presentations
- * Various formal writing assignments
- * Impromptu essay writing
- * Quizzes and Unit tests
- * Semester exams

CONTENT: Short Stories, Drama, Novels, Poetry, Nonfiction, Grammar/Writing

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

- * Small and Large Group Discussions
- * Projects and Presentations/Technological Support
- * Creative Writing
- * Advanced Placement Essay Practice Writing
- * Grammar Activities/ Sentence Structure/ Daily Practice
- * Pre-testing
- * Socratic Discussion/Debate
- * Peer Sharing/Editing

MATERIALS: You will need to bring your textbook/novel, pen, pencil, paper, and English folder/binder, your student agenda, and a positive attitude to class each day. The core text for the course is *Glencoe Literature: American Literature. Glencoe, McGraw Hill, 2002.*

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS: *The Crucible, The Scarlet Letter, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, The Great Gatsby, Of Mice and Men, Black Boy, Night*

ASSIGNMENTS: Everything you do in this class counts in some way. Consult the blackboard at the beginning of class and write the daily assignment in your agenda. All due dates will be posted on the board and will be clearly-stated and understood. Assignments handed in late will not receive full credit; late work will receive ½ credit.

MAKE-UP WORK: It is your responsibility to obtain make-up work when absent from class. If you are aware of any scheduled absences, it will be your responsibility to ask for those assignments ahead of time.

TESTS & QUIZZES: Tests and quizzes must be taken on the day they are scheduled to be taken. If you miss a test or quiz, you must arrange a make-up date as soon as possible. Failure to make up a test or quiz will result in a zero.

GRADING EXPECTATIONS: Your grade is based on daily work in class, homework, tests, quizzes, impromptus, and class participation. Point values are assigned to each graded item and will be converted to a percentage at the end of the semester. **Grading Scale: 100-90 A**

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-----F

CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

RESPECT

- **Classroom:** Respect the property of the school and the property of others by leaving alone things that do not belong to you. Do not write on desks, litter on the floor, pick at bulletin boards, etc.
- **Classmates:** Treat your classmates as you would expect to be treated. I will NOT tolerate hurtful and insensitive remarks directed towards others. During class discussions and writer's workshops, please be respectful of the ideas and opinions of others.
- **Teachers:** I refuse to talk over you. When I am talking, please refrain from any conversation. I will respect you when you are speaking; so please, respect me enough to listen when I am speaking.

ATTENDANCE: It is very difficult for you to learn in this class if you are not here. Be in class, on time, every day. I keep accurate attendance records and will follow the school's attendance policy (see student handbook).

TARDY POLICY: We will start class when the bell rings, not 2 minutes after. Be in your seat and ready to learn. According to the school's tardy policy, each tardy after 3 will be considered an unexcused absence (see student handbook).

HALLWAY PRIVILEGES: If you need to leave the room for any reason, you must sign out with your student agenda. Abuse of this rule will result in loss of freedom to leave the classroom.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES: With the exception of di-hydrogen monoxide, absolutely NO food or beverages of any kind will be allowed in the classroom (see student handbook).

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY: Prohibited in class; after one verbal warning to place electronics away, electronic devices/cell phones will be confiscated.

OTHER: NO BAGS OR PURSES ON DESKS.

