

Dear parents, guardians, and students,

My name is Greg McAda, and I am excited to be your student's English III teacher this year. My last name rhymes with the insect "cicada," in case that's helpful. I have a B.A. in English and Secondary Education from Clemson University, and this will be my 8th year of teaching. I was born in San Antonio, TX, but I have lived in South Carolina most of my life - first in Conway and later in Travelers Rest. I live with my wife Sara, our cat, two dogs, and an absurd number of houseplants.

After the dust settles from the first few exciting weeks of school, I will be in contact via email to notify you of my long range plans for the year, including texts we will cover and skills we will practice. In the meantime, I look forward to getting to know your student as a person and as a learner, and I am eager to enlist your support in making this year of English valuable. My goal is to prepare your student for future academic endeavors, which includes teaching responsibility, accountability, and self-advocacy *in addition to* academic content. I have high expectations for my students, but I will never ask something of them that they are not capable of doing. I ask that you consistently discuss my class with your child in order to remain aware of his/her assignments and grades.

On my school website, accessible through the GTCHS homepage under "Our School," then "Faculty and Staff," you will also have permanent access to the calendar for your student's course. Along with Google Classroom, this is the best way to keep up with what we are studying and what upcoming assignments your student will be working on. I have also included a QR code below to navigate you directly to my page.

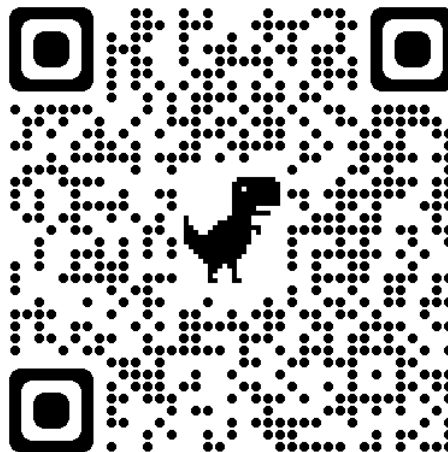
Please take time to review this syllabus with your student and complete and **return the last page of this document** which provides your contact information and indicates that you both understand the expectations of my classroom. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will respond within at least 24 hours or on the next business day if you contact me on the weekend or a holiday. The best method of contact for me is e-mail (see address below).

Best,

Greg McAda
cmcada@staff.gtchs.org



LINK TO MY WEBSITE:



INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Creg McAda

LOCATION: Building 119, Room 206

E-MAIL: cmcada@staff.gtchs.org

WEBSITE: Google Classroom will be my default online location for student assignments and resources

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays from 2:50-3:30 p.m. Signing up ahead of time outside my door is expected.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: English III provides a survey of American literature from the pre-colonial period up to the modern era. Students will practice a variety of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research skills applied to our class texts. Overall, this course will focus most heavily on discussion and writing skills.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- ✓ School-assigned Chromebook with charger daily (NOT a personal laptop))
- ✓ Course texts to purchase: Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* (ISBN: 9780345345059) and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (ISBN: 9781982146702)
 - (Please contact me if this creates a financial concern and we'll work something out!)
- ✓ Writing utensils and loose paper for informal activities
- ✓ (Suggested) sticky notes for annotating hard-copy texts

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ASSESSMENT: Grades are earned and not "given." Good grades are earned by completing high quality work in a timely manner. Final grades are calculated according to the following formula:

- 50% for major assessments including tests, essays, and projects
- 30% for pre-writing assignments, quizzes, and reading-accountability tasks
- 20% for minor assessments such as homework (not including reading-accountability) and classwork
- The midterm and final exams will be worth 20% EACH as applied to the two semester grades.

If a student fails a course with a grade of 70-74, the student is eligible to retake the course through credit recovery. If a student fails a course with a grade below 70, the student will be required to retake the course.

OFFICE HOURS AND MASTERY: Office Hours are never a punishment! They are a promise that I will be available to help you reach your full potential.

GTCHS wants students to achieve mastery and success in all classes. To achieve this, **my office hours are on Tuesday afternoons from 2:50-3:30 in my room.** All students are required to attend office hours if their current overall average for the year is below 75% OR if their most recent major

grade essay scored below 75%. I use this time to work intensively one-on-one or in small groups to ensure mastery of concepts. It is not a time to make up work, nor is it a study hall. Students need to arrive on time and be prepared to utilize the entire 40 minutes. Extracurricular activities do not excuse you from attending office hours.

Reassessment will be available for *some* assignments, not including essays and long-term projects. Plainly stated, under no circumstances will I regrade an essay. In the interest of providing mastery opportunities for long-term major grades and essays, I will utilize minor and/or quiz grade assignments as “check-ins” leading up to the major grade, and these check-ins will be eligible for retakes and mastery. For example, hypothetically I could have a minor grade assignment deadline for the introduction and thesis statement of an essay, and then a quiz grade for the rough draft, before the final draft is due as a major grade. A rough draft must meet certain criteria to receive full credit, and if these criteria are not met, this quiz-weighted grade will be eligible for a 2nd submission for mastery credit up to 75%.

Students will notify parents via e-mail on Mondays during advisory of their grades in all courses. It is mandatory that all students who earn below 75% on a major assessment attend Office Hours in order to ensure the student is prepared to perform better in their next essay or project. Mastery credit will be offered for quizzes and reading-accountability tasks up to 75% following a retake or an alternate method of assessment at the discretion of the teacher. There will not be mastery credit available for minor grades or for class discussion participation. There will also not be mastery credit available for late/incomplete pre-writing assignments, because it is vital that students prepare adequately *in advance* for writing assignments.

LATE WORK AND ABSENCES: All assignments are due at the beginning of the scheduled class period.

- Homework and Classwork: Late minor assignments will be accepted for up to half credit within 5 school days of the due date. Work needs to be completed in a timely manner so that you are prepared for class discussions.
- Major Assessments: There will be a **10 point penalty** for **each school day** that major assessments are late. Late major assessments will not be accepted after 5 school days.

If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to contact me for missed assignments on the day you return to class following an absence. Work should be submitted and tests/quizzes made up no later than *5 school days* after the excused absence. Work will not be accepted after this time period and a grade of “0” will be entered.

MEDIA: Throughout the year, we will be utilizing articles, essays, news clips, and videos in our exploration of literature in all of its various forms. Videos may be rated up to PG-13. We will take advantage of the technology that is available at GTCHS. All GTCHS students are given an email address under the school domain. I expect all students to check this email address at least once daily and use it for correspondence with me.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: These offenses will not be tolerated in any form. **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, copying another student’s work (OF ANY KIND) *with* or *without* his/her consent, or using AI programs to do your work for you. Unless you and I have previously discussed a legitimate use, AI should not be used for any assignment in this course. Allowing *someone else* to copy your work

is also cheating. **Plagiarism** includes cheating but also copying or using the ideas of a published author without giving proper credit.

The repercussion for academic dishonesty/cheating/plagiarism will be:

- Minor assignments: Authentic completion of the original assignment and a permanent grade of 0%
- Major assignments: Authentic completion of the original assignment with a maximum grade of 50%

DISCIPLINE: My classroom has an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students will be respectful to me, their classmates, and themselves. Interfering with my teaching or the learning of others will result in consequences. My discipline system is based on fouls given by soccer referees:

- “Foul” - Verbal warning given to the student with the understanding that this “foul” was not serious enough for a yellow card, but the offense needs to be stopped immediately
- “Yellow Card” - Verbal warning, with the understanding that if the behavior does not immediately cease, a Red Card with guaranteed contact to an administrator or parent/guardian will follow. It is possible to skip past a simple “foul” straight to a yellow card
- “Red Card” - Serious offenses, or repeated minor offenses, lead to guaranteed teacher contact to an administrator or parent/guardian. As in soccer, it is quite possible to skip past a yellow card straight to red

MR. MCADA’S CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Respect yourself, and take the necessary actions to allow yourself to be successful
2. Respect your peers, because you are not the “main character” and they have an equal right to pursue Rule 1
3. Respect your instructor, because in the grand scheme, I’m just a dude with feelings, hopes, and worries just like you - and there is always more to learn
4. Respect the environment we share. Take care of materials, leave no trace, and remember there will always be others that inherit what you leave behind

Please sign and date below, indicating that you have read and understand the content of this syllabus. *This page should be returned to Mr. McAda for the first homework grade. Parents, please feel free to keep the welcome letter addressed to you on the first page. Students, please keep the syllabus as a reference for the rest of the year, and remember it will be available on Google Classroom as well.*

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PLEASE PRINT): _____

YOUR STUDENT'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT): _____

I have read this syllabus and understand the requirements and expectations of Mr. McAda's class.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS FOR MR. MCADA (OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE FOR ME TO KNOW):