

**2021-2022**  
**Ms. Ghassemi**  
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**Room 205**

English III is a college prep class in which students work to improve their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking in accordance with the California Common Core State Standards. The focus is American Literature, which corresponds to U.S. History.

**Possible Major Works Covered (this list could change):**

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The Poetry of Emily Dickinson
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansbury
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

In addition to some of the core works listed above, students will be reading a variety of fiction and nonfiction, including current events. We will be practicing strategies for evaluating sources and will engage in civil dialogue. Throughout the year we will be covering vocabulary, writing strategies, and exercises in grammar and usage and preparing for the Common Core State testing.

**Homework and Grading**

Students can expect to have homework approximately three days per week. Should there be no written homework students are expected to read assigned texts outside of class. Parents and students are welcome to use Aeries, our online program, to keep up with grades and attendance. The following is an approximate percentage breakdown of the total grade:

Classwork/Homework: 30%   Participation 10%   \*Formal Assessment: 60%

\*Formal Assessment includes tests, formal essays, speeches, collaborative projects and presentations.

The grading scale is:

90-100 = A                      80-89 = B                      70-79 = C                      60-69 = D

**Make-Up Work and Late Work**

- Make up work will be accepted for **EXCUSED ABSENCES ONLY**. Absences must be cleared through attendance to get credit for missed work. You will **not** be able to turn in work for unexcused absences/truancies.
- **Late work** (meaning you were here, but did not turn assignment in on time) will receive HALF CREDIT if turned in within **2 days. After 2 days it is not accepted.**

**Materials**

Students should bring the following items to class **every day**:

- paper
- pens and pencils
- a two-pocket folder or a binder in which to keep handouts/assignments
- the novel which we are currently reading
- **SSR** reading material. In addition to 4<sup>th</sup> period SSR, we will be reading and reflecting in our writing journals **every Tuesday**.
- **NOTE:** Parents/guardians are responsible for the content of SSR reading material.

Also suggested: small Post-it notes and highlighters for close reading and note-taking

## Discipline Policy

I enforce school and District policies as defined in your Student Handbook. I also enforce school tardy and restroom use policy.

### Class rules are as follows:

1. ELECTRONIC DEVICES (cell phones, gaming devices, etc.) are only to be used with teacher permission.
2. Show RESPECT to everyone.
3. Be in your SEAT when the bell rings.
4. Wait for the BELL to dismiss you from class.
5. Pick up TRASH around your desk.

**Consequences:** Verbal warning, loss of privileges, detention, parent phone call, referral to Assistant Principal. All will be documented in Aeries.

## Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic dishonesty is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest deceptive, illegal or unauthorized means. Examples include but are not limited to: using notes or aids or the help of other students on tests or exams in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor, plagiarism (as defined below), tampering with grading procedures, using work from past years for current assignments, and collaborating with others on any assignment where such collaboration does not have the express permission of the teacher.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking the substance of another's work or ideas and offering it as one's own without giving credit to the source.

**NOTE:** English Department policy requires that assignments or exams of which any part is plagiarized or in which students participate in any other form of academic dishonesty **will earn an F with no opportunity for makeup.**

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Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

I have read Ms. Ghassemi's curriculum letter, discipline policy, and academic dishonesty policy, and agree to comply with them to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

