

Mr. Shoults
Vista Murrieta High School
Room EE 14
Phone: (951) 894-5750, extension 6504



English III Syllabus (2023-2024)

Course Description: English III is a course designed to not only meet, but to exceed, the state and district standards in English Language Arts. This course emphasizes further development in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions, and listening and speaking within a curriculum that adheres to California Common Core Standards for English Language Arts. Students will be exposed to a variety of American literary genres, including poetry, drama, short stories, novels and non-fiction texts. They will also compose argumentative, narrative, and informational pieces of writing.

Core Texts:

In addition to selections from our recently adopted textbook, students may be exposed to selections from the following:

- *The Bedford Reader*
- *The Crucible*
- *Catcher in the Rye*
- *Death of a Salesman*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- *Dear America, Letters from Vietnam*
- *Fahrenheit 451*
- *The Grapes of Wrath*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *Raisin in the Sun*

Grading Scale:

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| • Reading Informational Texts & Literature – 30% | 90-100% = A |
| • Writing – 30% | 80-89.9% = B |
| • Listening and Speaking – 20% | 70-79.9% = C |
| • Language – 20% | 60-69.9% = D |
| | 59.9% & below = F |
| | (+/- used in scale) |

Though students' **grades will be available on both Aeries and Canvas**, please know Canvas will always provide the most up-to-date information on student assignments and grades.

Make-up Homework Policy:

When students are absent, they still have access to the happenings, documents, and/or assignments from class via Canvas. When a student is absent from school, it is the student's responsibility to contact teachers upon returning to school in regard to questions or needs surrounding make-up work. (The teacher may be contacted via email, telephone, or **Canvas Inbox** message.) The time allotted for making up missed work will vary depending on the circumstances surrounding the absence, the actual time out of school, and the teacher's classroom policy. Each student will make arrangements with the teacher for turning in this work. If a student is absent for three (3) days or more, the parent should call and request the work and/or should assist the student in accessing Canvas to stay abreast of happenings for class. Teachers will be given a 24-hour notice to provide make-up work.

Late Work:

The make-up policy for missing assignments when a student is not absent is at the discretion of the individual teacher. **Late work has the unfortunate ability to impact both a student's learning and classmates' experiences. It also creates logistical nightmares for teachers.** As such, late work is highly discouraged. Additionally, only work from the current six-week grading period will be accepted late. Once each six-week grading period ends, I will no longer accept assignments that were due therein. Should late work become a pattern, the following deductions will apply.

- Third late assignment: 10%
- Fourth late assignment: 20%
- Fifth and subsequent late assignments: 30% (maximum late penalty)

Assignments may be corrected/resubmitted at the discretion of the teacher. Students are encouraged to correct/resubmit assignments when the opportunity arises.

English Department Academic Integrity Policy

Students need to take personal responsibility for their academic performance and demonstrate academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or the attempt to copy assignments from other sources (another person or online); using notes without permission; turning in work that's done by someone else, **or by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool when prohibited—either in part or in whole**; forging, altering and/or duplicating school documents or signatures; plagiarism; sending text messages of answers; and using photography to capture/reference assessment data, assignment answers, or other information. Consequences for academic dishonesty may be implemented at the discretion of the teacher and/or by administration. This may result in zero credit for the assignment as well as progressive discipline. Consequence severity will increase if the offense repeats.

English Department Cell Phone/Electronics Policy

Student use of cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics has become an increasingly negative distraction and/or disruption during classroom instruction, interfering with student learning and engagement.

In order to support and maintain an environment conducive to learning and engagement, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics **must be turned off and put away while class is in session** (unless otherwise directed by the teacher for academic purposes).

Failure to comply with the cell phone/electronics directive may be considered “defiance” and result in behavioral consequences. Additionally, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics may be confiscated by faculty and/or an administrator, and parental pickup may be required.

If you need to contact your child in case of an emergency, call the front office at (951) 894-5750.

Classroom Rules:

I do not have a laundry list of rules for my classroom. As juniors, I consider my students young adults who should be able to self-regulate in a number of areas. However, when circumstances warrant, I may

implement a class seating chart or other means of correction to ensure the integrity of the learning environment. I ask that students abide by the guidelines provided below.

- Treat others as you would be treated (mutual respect).
- Be open to ALL ideas.
- Don't judge others; we all have different collections of experiences.
- Do not abuse passes (restroom, etc.).
- Adhere to the tenets of CLASS (Character, Leadership, Attitude, Scholarship, and Service).