

English III Honors – A.I. Dupont High School  
2007 – 2008

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**Course Description** - This course is a comprehensive study of American literature from the pre-Civil war era through the 1970's. As we embark on the study of each new era, a brief historical background and description will be read and discussed from the literature book. Short stories, poetry, plays, and essays from that time period will also be included in study and discussion. This will be followed by an in-depth study of a novel or play indicative of that same period. Papers will be assigned throughout the course of study along with individual or group projects. Grammar and writing will be taught through handouts and rewrites. Oral communication skills will also be practiced and enhanced through out the course.

During the year, students will submit several types of writing including the narrative essay, the descriptive essay, the argumentative (pro-con) essay, and the comparison-contrast essay. Students will also write a research paper related to our study of American authors. Research skills will be reinforced and students will be graded on each step of the process.

Vocabulary words and terms drawn from the study of grammar, literature, and composition, as well as from a vocabulary book, will also be incorporated in the course.

Students will study the play *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare. Each year in high school, a Shakespeare play is included in the course of study. This drama, which we will read is the only exception to our American literature study.

**Objectives:**

1. To understand how this nation's history created and influenced the American literary trends as writers guided readers through the periods of Puritanism, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and into Contemporary literature.
2. Learning, analyzing, and applying literary terminologies to the essays, novels, short stories, poetry, dramas, etc., that we read for understanding/comprehension/connection.
3. Writing with a focus on thinking and applying critically analytical skills when looking at the literary development of our country.
4. Making important connections to self, texts, and country when analyzing important literary works of major authors.

**Materials/Textbooks:** The following materials will be used: *Elements of Literature*, *Sadler-Vocabulary*, handouts for vocabulary study, writing, and grammar. The following novels/plays will be included (time allowing): *The Scarlet Letter*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *Hamlet*.

Students are required to purchase a vocabulary book, which will cost about \$9.

Students are also required to purchase a three ring binder. A composition book for some journal entries (that is kept in the classroom) is also required. Keep and date everything in your binder. This requirement protects you and your grade. It also becomes your portfolio of work, which I will ask you to turn in at the end of the year.

**Movies/Videos/CD:** There are times when audiovisual techniques enhance the learning experience. For this reason, the following movies may be seen this year:

The Mayflower, The Crucible, A & E videos on Poe and Shakespeare, The Great Gatsby, The Scarlet Letter, Hamlet, etc.

**Grading:** Will be based on the following areas – homework/class work/participation = 30%; quizzes (announced/unannounced), be prepared at all times = 20%; tests, projects, essays, major writings (research paper) = 50%

Suggestions keep all handouts in your binder by marking period and chronological order in which we study them. These will be used for reference and studying for tests/exams.

Grading percentages coincide with the RCCSD grading policy.

A = 100 – 93

B = 92 – 85

C = 84 – 77

D = 76 – 70

F = Below 70

The final grade is determined by the average of the four marking periods (20% each), midterm (10%), and final exam (10%). A student must pass with a final .75 average to earn a credit for a year. If a student receives three F's in any of the five elements, he or she has not passed.

**Failure to turn in the required research paper constitutes an automatic failure for the marking period in which it is due.**

**Materials needed for class:**

- 3” binder to maintain your papers (brought to class each day)
- Black or blue pens, red pens for corrections
- Pencil/white out/eraser/mini-stapler
- Loose-leaf paper for pop quizzes or daily work
- Folder with two pockets (I will give you for requirements of assignments)
- Journal or composition book (kept in classroom) for some writing prompts

**Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

1. It is your responsibility to come to class with the appropriate materials. These include: pen/pencil, lined paper, three ring binder, textbook or novel we are studying at the time. Absence of these materials will be noted in your daily grade.

2. Be seated with proper materials by the time the bell rings.
3. If you are late report to the Late Center.
4. If you are absent it is your responsibility to bring me an admit slip and get your make-up work. You have, as many days as you are absent to make up the work.
5. It is your responsibility to complete your homework each night. Pop quizzes will be given, so read your assignments carefully. Know the details. If you have a written assignment, it is due immediately at the **BEGINNING** of class. Late work is not accepted.
6. It is your responsibility to turn in your written assignments before you leave school day on any day, which you have, an early dismissal. At that time, you will get the assignment for that night so that you can be prepared the following day.
7. It is your responsibility to contribute to all classes by paying attention, asking and responding to pertinent questions, and participating in discussions and other group activities.
8. It is your responsibility to write essays and major assignments in pen or preferably type them. Typed papers are to be double spaced, size 12 font, in black ink only. They are due at the beginning of designated class. If a paper is submitted late, the evaluation is lowered by fifty percent. Remember for major assignments, papers, and projects it is better to lose points and turn in late work than to earn a “0.”
9. No food or drink, except water in class.
10. Refrain from vulgar/suggestive language (cursing) and interrupting or ridiculing another student or the teacher.
11. No electronic equipment and devices are to be out in class, remember, **“I see it; I hear it; I take it!!!”**

Visit bathrooms or lockers between classes, during lunch, before or after school, as you will not be able to leave during the short time we are in class. If there is an emergency come up and fill out the clipboard pass, I will sign it. **There should not be an emergency every day.**

### **Questions:**

**#1 – What can I expect this year?**

**Answer – Writing, reading in and out of class, individual and group participation**

**#2 – What will I receive from this year’s course?**

**Answer – Whatever you put into it. You will become better writers and thinkers; you will understand a chronology and appreciation for the literature of this country.**

**#3 – Will it be difficult and what if I need help?**

**Answer – If you keep up with the writings, readings, homework, participation, assignments and due dates you will be fine. If you run into obstacles, let me know and I will help you after school or you can sign up for Tutorial Services after school.**

**With teacher centered and student-centered lessons, as well as collaborative group work presentations, participation is crucial to a successful class environment.**

**Learning is a 2-way process. You set the tone for the class you want. Let's have a great year. Don't leave your thinking cap at home!**

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**(Cut off at the line and return this portion to the teacher. Due a week from date, it is received.)**

**We have read, discussed, and understood the above material and requirements for the English III Honors class. We understand that that my educational success depends on a three-way partnership of effort, support, and guidance involving student, parent, and teacher are critical to my successful year.**

**Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**