

Course Overview: 11th Grade Language Arts

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Overview

Welcome to 11th grade English. This course's primary focus is on American literature, from the early colonial period through today. It will cover fiction, non-fiction, poetry, music, film, and art in an attempt to answer the question of who we are and how we got here. I will draw heavily Southern Gothic and Modern short stories in addition to Puritan, Romantic, Gothic, Transcendentalist, Realist, and (maybe) Post-Modernist writings and art, as well as the writing and art created during the Harlem Renaissance. In addition to the reading, we will also create a writing portfolio (see The Writing Portfolio) which will count towards a final grade.

Some Texts We Will Be Using (... though there will likely be others as well)

- *Into The Wild*, John Krakauer
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *The Prentice Hall Reader*
- *Write For College*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain
- *Smoke Signals*, Alexie
- *Collected Poems of Edgar Allen Poe*
- *The Crucible*, Miller
- *A Farewell to Arms*, Hemmingway
- *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Merchant of Venice*, Shakespeare

Class Expectations (General Guidelines for your success...)

- Be sure to arrive on time. Class will often begin with a warm-up activity which cannot be made up, and will count towards your final grade as part of the participation grade. You will also be quizzed on this material regularly.
- Leave all electronic devices in your bag. This includes, but is not limited to; iPods, cell phones, PSPs, CD players, Walkmen, portable DVD players, and home stereo equipment. There is a time and a place for all these, but the classroom is not one of these places. Visible electronics will be sent to the principal's office without warning.
- Participate! Make a point of being engaged in class discussions and group projects.
- Be an advocate for your own learning! If you have questions about a subject, concerns, or are generally confused, say something; I'm always happy to clarify.
- Adhere to LHS's policy regarding Academic Honesty. See your handbook for more information.
- Homework is due at the beginning of class each day.
- Work missed as a result of unexcused absences or tardies cannot be made up.
- Complete your own work and turn it in on time.
 - Plagiarism will be taken very seriously. The first offense will result in a loss of credit on the assignment containing plagiarized material, the second offense will result in a conference between the offending party and school administration, as well as a possible loss of course credit.
 - Students will receive 3 passes for late work. Any work turned in after its due date must be accompanied by a pass in order for students to receive credit.
- Be respectful of the classroom and your peers; I will strive to meet your expectations, and I expect that you will do the same.

Materials

For this course students will need a 1" binder with lined paper and at least four dividers. Please, no spiral notebooks. This binder will serve as the place you keep some of your warm-ups, class work, homework, and your Writing Portfolio. It will regularly be left in class for assessment purposes but may also be taken home. You will find it useful to use a USB drive as well.

Grades

The LHS English Department awards grades based on the following scale:

94-100 %	A	80-83.9 %	B-	67-69.9 %	D+
90-93.9%	A-	77-79.9 %	C+	63-66.9 %	D
87-89.9%	B+	74-76.9 %	C	60-62.9 %	F
84-86.9%	B	70-73.9 %	C-		

Grading

Course grades are based on weighted point scores from assignments, assessments and class participation:

- The Writing Portfolio 40%
- Journals, Class Work/Projects, and Participation 30%
- Tests and Quizzes 20%
- Outside Reading 10%

Outside Reading

During this semester, each student will be responsible for completing one (2) novel outside of class. One can be chosen by you, the other will be chosen by a parent or guardian from the list supplied in class and on my website under "Outside Reading." Each book will be accompanied by a short project.

Assignments

Expect homework regularly. Due dates will be given, orally, digitally via Twitter, Facebook, and my blog, as well as in writing on the board. You are responsible for making sure you know what the homework is for the evening. Again, I will regularly post assignments online as well.

If you have missed a class period, it is your responsibility to find out both what we have done and what the homework is. In general, you should know what each week looks like on Monday, so you will know in advance what needs to be completed. I will also endeavor to send out regular Monday emails. Sign up if you want to receive them or check my website.

Turnitin.com

I make regular use of Turnitin.com for major essay assignments and during the HSPE prep unit. You will need an email address to sign up for an account.

Films

During the year I regularly show a number of films that are not rated G. If you object to any of the following films, please contact me via email or by phone:

- Smoke Signals (PG-13)
- Into The Wild (R)
- Taming of the Shrew, 1976 (Unrated)
- 10 Things I Hate About You (PG-13)

Hall and Restroom Passes

Hall passes will be issued to students as at the beginning of each semester. Each student will receive 5 hall passes for the semester. Please do not ask to use them during the first or last five minutes of class.

I reserve the right to revoke pass privileges if they are chronically abused.

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Tardies and Absences

Both excused tardies and unexcused absences will make it difficult for you to succeed in this class. Work missed as a result of these cannot be made up. Arrive on time, come to class, and you'll be all right.

Make-Up Work

If you have missed class as the result of an excused absence, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. Due dates will be prorated for the number of days for which you have excused absences. Major assignment due dates will remain the same. Again, exceptions will be made in the case of emergencies.

Final Thoughts

I look forward to working with you this semester; it promises to be both challenging and exciting, and we encourage your input! If you feel that the class would benefit from your knowledge, let us know. You are a wealth of information, and we hope that we can learn from you too.

(Sign and Return)

I have read this course overview and agree to abide by the policies outlined therein.

Student Name

Student Signature

Student Email Address

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Email Address