**English 11 Syllabus**

*“It is not who you attend school with, but who controls the school you attend.”*

~ Nikki Giovanni

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to read and analyze important literary works by American authors. The course will examine the literary contributions of a variety of authors from a variety of time periods throughout American history. Additionally, the course will enhance students’ skills in writing, speaking, usage and mechanics, vocabulary, and critical thinking.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the year, students will be able to:

* Read with an emphasis on analysis, synthesis, interpretation and evaluation
* Manage a variety of information by analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and making connections
* Write with an adherence to standard English conventions; write with focus, clarity, and style, as well as write descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive pieces
* Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations including formal and informal presentations
* Conduct and cite research using a variety of sources

Materials Needed:

Students need one heavy-duty, large, 3-ring binder with dividers. All students also need a set of highlighters, pencils, pens, and paper. Post-Its, and index cards would be beneficial.

Required Texts:

* *Of Mice and Men*
* The Great Gatsby
* *The Crucible*
* *Twelve Angry Men*

\*We encourage students to mark up the text or highlight as they read, so feel free to purchase any of the works above. If the text comes from school, it may not be marked up.

\*\*In addition to the required texts read as a class, students will be required to read up to five novels throughout the year with their Literature Circles. The Literature Circle book list is attached and those books will also be provided; however, students may choose to purchase those books as well.

Classroom Policies:

*“If you’re going to play the game properly, you’d better know every rule.”*

~Barbara Jordan

* Come to class fully prepared
  + Discussion is the cornerstone of this course; you cannot discuss what you have not read.
  + When you are assigned homework, you are expected to turn it in on time. Late work will NOT be accepted.
  + If you are absent, YOU must make arrangements to get make-up work. As per school policy, any work due a day you are absent is due the day you return to school.
* The use of all electronics is acceptable WHEN INDICATED BY TEACHER
* Behave with academic integrity in this (and ALL) academic endeavor.
  + Submit for credit ONLY your own work
  + Reading various study guides (i.e., SparkNotes, Cliff’s Notes, etc.) in leiu of the readings assigned is considered cheating

Notebook:

Good note-taking is a critical skill that will also be helpful to you in the future, regardless of your future plans. Students are expected to take notes during any class discussion or direct instruction. Keep all notes and notebooks updated, neat, and organized chronologically.

Homework:

You should expect to have homework for this class. Much of it will be reading assignments.

Classwork:

During class, not all collected work will be graded for points but all will be used to assess learning. Absent students cannot make up classwork for points, however, these points will be considered a “no count” and will not impact the grade.

Strategies for Success:

Read each day’s assignment. Take reading notes. Become involved in class discussions. Ask questions about difficult concepts or passages. Respond to others’ ideas and add your own insights or questions. Participation helps you comprehend and retain the material. Take notes during class discussions. Jot down important terms, concepts, passages, quotations, themes, stylistic devices, and symbols being discussed. And – no matter what – do not quit just because you are confused. Work through the difficult stuff!!!

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in the following manner:

Category Brief Description Grade Percentage

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| --- | --- | --- |
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| Writing | This category includes all written work submitted for grades – including analytical paragraphs, essays, and other written work | 35% of quarter grade |
| Exams | This category includes all assessments (tests and/or quizzes) for each unit of study, as well as tests and quizzes throughout units | 35% of quarter grade |
| Homework | This category includes all homework assigned for a grade and literature circle paperwork that is completed outside of class. | 15% of quarter grade |
| Quizzes | This category will include any reading check quizzes or chapter quizzes as we work through a piece/ | 15% of quarter grade |

