

English III Course Syllabus
Mr. Wendel, Room 116
wendelsworld.weebly.com

Goal/Purpose:

Welcome to Junior English! I'm excited about the discoveries we will be making together this year. In this class we'll be looking closely at American literature, but perhaps more importantly, discussing, debating, and considering the questions and issues that have shaped us as a nation. You should walk away from this class having a deeper understanding of our American society, your role in it, and the people, forces, and literature that shaped it.

Essential Questions:

Unit 1: Who are we as a nation? Why do people come to America? What significant changes happen when they do?

Unit 2: What is the balance between preserving individual rights and forming a strong, long-lasting union?

Unit 3: What best describes the American spirit? How is this related to our relationship to nature and to society?

Unit 4: What is freedom? How should freedom be expanded in the world today?

Unit 5: Are industrialization, urbanization, and technology inherently good? How does Realism portray this as positive or negative?

Unit 6: As modern Americans, are we any better off than when we started? How must we change?

Key Skills and Objectives:

Once you leave this class you should be able to:

1. Read and closely analyze texts from a wide range of classical, modern, non-fiction American literature such as: short stories, essays, plays, novels, poems, and articles
2. Write and refine persuasive reports synthesizing sources, arguments, online blogs, speeches, reflective narratives, and analytical essays.
3. Use words, syntax, and punctuation (e.g. clauses, appositives, semi-colons, colons, brackets, ellipses) to express yourself.
4. Integrate relevant technologies like Google Classroom, personal websites, etc. into your learning process.
5. Work cooperatively in groups, partners, and independently to create and present projects, summaries, and analyses.
6. Annotate various texts in order to deepen and strengthen comprehension and analysis.
7. Use a broader academic and general vocabulary.

Contact Information:

You may contact me at the following e-mail: jwendel@muhsd.org

PLEASE NOTE: When e-mailing me please put your name (if a parent, your child's name) and period you have English class in the Subject box. If you do not do this I may not know whose e-mail I am answering.

Materials:

Our class will be a blended learning environment. This means you will be using a laptop *and* paper everyday. Many students prefer laptops, while others engage better using pen on paper. We will be taking advantage of the strengths that both mediums offer.

Bring the following materials to class **every** day:

- a. a spiral notebook for each unit – taking notes, (you will need six of these for the year!)
- b. **several** sharpened or mechanical pencils, pens, and highlighters
- c. Laptop

Class Structure

This class is a blended learning environment, meaning much of the instruction will be given digitally, but we will also take advantage of pencil and paper. Everyday will begin with a start-up task that you will retrieve from our website: Wendelsworld.weebly.com. Go here first! You will be directed to Google Classroom and other sites from the main website. If you are absent, just go to the lesson you missed, and you can catch up. You will also be regularly working in groups and collaborating. We will also have rotation days in class where you complete assignments with different students.

Assignment Types and Weighting

Classwork, Homework, and Notebook 40% This will comprise the largest portion of your grade. Most of the things we do in class will fall under this category. Some will be online and some will be on paper. You will also keep a notebook with all of your important hand-written notes.

Language Assessments 10% Your ability to orally communicate is one of your greatest assets. Daily responses in class, presentation assignments, and socratic seminars will all be assessed informally and formally. Don't worry! Expectations will be very clear and attainable by every student.

Reading/Vocabulary Assessments 30% - Our class will have announced reading quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, as well as longer assessments at the end of each unit or book. Part of this score will include timed essay writings. You should be well-prepared through study guides, notes, and class discussion.

Writing Assignments and Performance Tasks 20% - After you have been given sufficient instruction in how to write (in-class models, group writing tasks, and peer edited assignments), you will be assessed on your ability to analyze and synthesize information with on-demand tasks that I will conference with you on.

Absences

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what assignments you missed. You have **two days for each day absent** to make up the work you missed. **Assignments given before your absence are due on the day you return** You will have **1 week** to make up missed tests or quizzes. **Long term writing assignments** (2 weeks or longer) are to be turned in on the due date **even if you are absent**. Please have a parent or another student turn in the assignment if you are not going to be in class on the due date.

Late Work

I accept late work for one day up to 70% percent of the original assignment's value.

Extra Credit:

There are **few** extra credit assignments available. I will post these as they come up, but don't count on these to dramatically influence your final grade.

Projected pacing for 2016-2017

Dates	Unit/Anchor Texts (Reading)	Performance Tasks (Writing)	Presentation (Speaking)
August 15- Sept 30 (35 days)	"Coming to America" <i>from Of Plymouth Plantation</i>	"TIQATIQA" Argument	Group Argument presentations
Oct 3 – Nov 7 (26 days)	"Building a Democracy" <i>The Declaration of Independence from The United States Constitution</i>	Informative Essay	Sharing a Political Blog
Nov 8 - Dec 15 (22 days)	"The Individual and Society" <i>from Song of Myself Against Myself</i>	Reflective Narrative	Create a Reflective Multimedia Narrative

Jan 3 rd - Feb 1 st (20 days)	“A New Birth of Freedom” <i>Second Inaugural Address</i> -Abraham Lincoln	Persuasive Speech	Speech Presentations
Feb 2 nd - March 10 th (25 days)	“An Age of Realism” <i>To Build a Fire</i>	Analytical Essay	TBD
March 20 th -May 31 (41 days)	“The Modern World” <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Argument	Group Debate

MHS English Department Academic Honesty Policy

As members of an academic community, students and faculty have the responsibility to foster and maintain Academic Honesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of the trust upon which an academic community depends. Examples of academic dishonesty follow.

Plagiarism/Copying- The definition of plagiarize is “to steal or pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s **own without crediting the source**” (*Websters* 877). In addition, any unauthorized collaboration, working with or receiving help from others on graded assignments without the specific approval of the instructor, is considered cheating. More specifically, copying from another student’s assignment or letting someone copy your assignment (whether it is word-for-word or partially copied) **is a violation of the English Department Academic Honesty Policy as well as against the MHS policy and California Ed Code 48900.**

Other forms of violation of the Academic Honesty Policy include the following:

- Obtaining an examination prior to its administration
- Using an unauthorized aid during an examination
- Looking at a book, backpack, or purse
- Having materials or information on the desk or within sight
- Knowingly assisting someone else during an examination
- Talking during an examination
- Helping another student cheat on an exam or assignment unless the instructor has made it clear that the assignment is a partner/group assignment

Ignorance of these standards will not be considered a valid excuse or defense. If a student is ever in doubt about an issue of academic honesty, or has any hesitation about a contemplated course of action, the student should consult with his or her instructor, counselor, or associate principal.

Penalties/Consequences for violating the MHS English Department Academic Honesty Policy:

1. Each student involved in the incident (regardless of his/her role) will receive an **F (0) points**.
2. Each student involved in the incident may be **given a referral**.
3. **No alternative assignment** will be given to replace the points lost.

Tardies:

When the bell rings, you must be **in your assigned seat and quiet**. If you are anywhere but in your seat, you will be considered tardy.

Gum Chewing and Eating in the Classroom:

In order to keep our school clean, gum chewing and eating in the classroom are not permitted.

Technology

All cell phones and other electronic devices, etc. will not be allowed at any time during class unless specified by the teacher. They must be turned off (not on vibrate) and not visible. The item will be confiscated and may be turned into the office if visible during class.

Classroom rules will be enforced according to the school wide discipline plan as outlined for 2016-2017.

Classroom Behavior:

Respect is the keyword in this classroom. Respect can best be defined as thoughtfulness for others. Here are some specific ways in which you can be a more respectful person in the classroom:

1. Whenever another person is talking, listen quietly.
2. Raise your hand if you wish to ask or answer a question. Please, don't just blurt out.
3. Sharpen your pencil and charge your laptop *before* class begins.
4. Throw away all papers after class.
5. Remain seated at all times unless we are engaged in activity that involves movement.
6. Leave the classroom only after being dismissed by Mr. Wendel.
7. Don't get caught playing video games during an assignment – you lose points.

Bathroom Passes

I give three bathroom passes out for the year. Yes, that's it. If you join second semester you get two. This may seem rigid, but after teaching for a decade, I've learned we can all assume a level of control over our bodies. Come see me personally before class if you know there will be issues.

Grades:

Check Aries regularly as these are updated bi-weekly.

Quarter grades are *progress reports* and are *not recorded* on the *permanent transcript*.

Semester grades are the average of 2 quarter grades, based on points. ***Semester grades make up the permanent transcript.***

A = 90%, B = 80 %, C = 70%, D = 60%. F = 0 to 59%.

I look forward to helping you succeed in Eng1 Pre-AP!

Sincerely,
Mr. Wendel



Student Parent Eng 3 Contract

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the requirements of Eng 3. I welcome the challenge and excitement of learning more complex and demanding material while becoming better prepared for my future. I believe I can do the following:

- 1) Come to class prepared with a notebook and charged laptop
- 2) Actively participate in classroom discussion and presentations.
- 3) Practice self-control by saving my important texts, social media accounts, and video games until after class.
- 4) Avoid plagiarism as defined above

Period _____

Student Signature X _____

Parent Signature X _____