

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION III

North Pointe Preparatory

Mrs. Witz

## Course Expectations 2019-2020

### LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### Course Description

English 11 (American Literature) is designed to fulfill the district and state curriculum requirements. Through readings, students study fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. Students concentrate on narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical writing. In addition, they review the research process and produce a career-focused research paper. Vocabulary study is integrated throughout the course, as is a continued study of word stems. Also included in the course are required assignments in speaking/listening and viewing/presenting.

#### Semester One:

Early American and Colonial Literature  
The Crucible (drama)  
Short fiction (Irving, Poe, Hawthorne)  
Literary non-fiction (Emerson, Thoreau)  
Tuesdays With Morrie

#### Semester Two:

The Great Gatsby  
Of Mice and Men  
Short Fiction  
Poetry

#### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to utilize narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical writing in order to convey a well-organized, pre-planned idea or position in accordance with Common Core writing standards. Students will also be able to identify and apply literary terms in concurrence with given text(s). Moreover, students will demonstrate their ability to use technology in relation to researching, preparing, and presenting projects and assignments. Overall, students will employ their acquired knowledge of the above material to expand and portray their worldview while adhering to, and targeting, the state academic standards as defined on the Arizona Department of Education webpage (<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/contentstandards.asp>).

Arizona College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards Curriculum

The core Literature and Composition curriculum for this class will adhere to all Arizona CCR standards. All lessons and assignments are designed to support students as they meet the increased rigor of state assessments and prepare for college and the workforce.

#### CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

While we are learning remotely, students are expected to maintain the same standards of behavior they would in a normal classroom setting. Appropriate dress and appropriate speech are required, as they would be on campus. Additionally, students are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves and their peers at all times and to follow the Code of Conduct.

## GRADING

A student's grade will be determined by participation, classwork and homework, tests, quizzes, and projects. Major writing assignments will be recorded as test grades. The final exam at the end of each semester will be worth 10% of the semester grade. The grade distribution for Literature and Composition is as follows:

### Make-up Work Policy

In this class, students must assume the responsibility to turn in assignments on time. Incomplete work will be cause for point reduction, and late assignments will not be accepted. If a student is absent for one day, the student has two days to make up the work per NP policy. Class time will not be spent discussing make-up work. Also, students will have one week to make up a missed test and must arrange to do so within one week. At Mrs. Witz's discretion, an alternate assignment may be given. I **strongly** recommend that the student and parents/guardians check the online grading system often, as grades will be updated frequently.

### Long-Term Paper/Project Policy

Long-term (any assignment with a due date more than one week from the assigned date) assignments are due on the date specified. If the student or teacher is absent, the project is still due the date it is assigned. A digital copy may be sent to my email address ([twitz@pointeschools.org](mailto:twitz@pointeschools.org)) the day the assignment is due, or the assignment can be turned in the following day for a one full letter grade deduction. **Any** long-term paper or project that is turned in late will be reduced by one full letter grade per day it is late.

## HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Due to individual differences in learning styles and work habits, time spent on homework each night will vary from child to child. Homework is given out sparingly; as a result, ALL homework is expected to be completed by the due date. **In order to receive full credit, assignments should be completed neatly, accurately, and on time.**

## LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Novels
  - Purchasing a copy of the texts we use is beneficial in many ways. If purchasing the text is a hardship, please let me know and we'll come up with a solution.
    - Of Mice and Men
- Notebook/binder
- College-ruled notebook paper
- Pens (black or blue ink)
- Highlighter

## TUTORING

As per the NPP student handbook, students who are not passing their current class with at least a minimum grade of a C are required to attend tutoring. Tutoring for Literature and Composition will be held Monday and Wednesday from 2:30pm – 3:30pm.

**Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other institutions.**

## TEACHER/PARENT COMMUNICATION

You may contact me at the following email address: [twitz@pointeschools.org](mailto:twitz@pointeschools.org), I try to answer emails as promptly as I can. I usually answer emails within a 24-hour period. You may also write a note and send it with your child to school.

### **Classroom Behavior Expectations and Consequences**

1. Students will bring all specified materials to class.
2. Students will respect the teacher, themselves, and others, as well as their property or possessions.
3. Students will remain focused on the learning process.
4. No student will be allowed to disrupt the learning of ANY other student in my classroom – AT ANY TIME.
5. Electronic devices are prohibited unless otherwise specified and must remain in the student's backpack during class. Electronic devices that are visible during class time will be sent to 4A for retrieval per NP policy.
6. Students will follow all classroom, school, and district policies at all times.
7. Students will adhere to the school's tardy and truancy policies.
8. Students will dress in a respectful fashion as defined in the school handbook.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

I trust that each student will maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. All assignments submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be the student's own work. All assignments, except those designated as "group," are meant to represent the effort of each individual student. Group projects and assignments should represent equal efforts by all group members. It is essential that every student understand the standards of academic honesty and how to avoid dishonesty by proper acknowledgment of intellectual indebtedness.

Drawing on the ideas of others as you develop your own is an essential and exciting component of intellectual work. Whenever you use other writers' ideas, however, you must acknowledge your sources. Doing so allows you to distinguish between your ideas and those of others; it directs your readers to relevant sources, and it allows you to give credit where credit is due.

Any student in violation of this policy will face loss of credit and disciplinary consequences.

### CLASSROOM DECORUM

I expect students in this class to follow all rules and expectations as set forth by the middle school and individual classroom teacher. For the most part, students at this age should be able to discern between what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior and act accordingly. The guidelines and policies that are currently in place will be used throughout the year to help students when they make mistakes in appropriate behavior.

### NOVEL REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to have the following texts for class. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they have their text at all times while in class. These novels are in ADDITION to the free reading novel that each student is required to have with them as per the NPP handbook. If obtaining the reading materials presents a hardship to your family, please let me know.

Novels that must be purchased:

Fall Semester:

Tuesdays With Morrie, Mitch Albom  
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck

Spring Semester:

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald  
Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut

I look forward to working with your child this year, and I appreciate your efforts at home to ensure a quality education and a positive learning experience for all.

**Preferred Contact Method of Parent/Guardian**

In order to facilitate the easiest back and forth between parents/guardians and the teacher, I would like to know what method you prefer to be contacted at during the day should the need arise.

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred methods in order:

Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

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