

# English III American Literature and Composition

## Contact Information

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Room 524

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**Course Philosophy:** This is a college preparatory course. There will be reading and writing assignments that will be geared toward preparing students for future English courses as well as preparing students for the demands of the workplace. The focus will be on developing and honing higher level literature analysis, writing, reading, speaking and listening skills that students have developed over the course of their educational experiences. The course is designed to encourage cooperative learning. It is important that each member of the class community be prepared by completing the course work assigned. It is vital that all members of the community participate in classroom discussions and assignments.

**Reading Assignments:** Readings may include, but are not limited to:

The Great Gatsby The Scarlet Letter Of Mice and Men A Raisin in the Sun

The Crucible\* A Death of a Salesman\* Hamlet The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass Selections from our class American Literature textbook, The American Experience

\*These titles are in the anthology and do not need to be purchased. All other titles need to be purchased by the deadline set by the teacher. If this presents a financial difficulty, notify the teacher in a timely fashion so arrangements can be made to secure a copy of the text. It is vital that all students have a copy of the text. It is not possible to pass the course without reading the texts. Do not purchase the texts until instructed to do so, as the list may change.

“ SMART is NOT something you ARE; SMART is something YOU DO!”

Students will have the opportunity to experiment with various types of expression. Students should expect to be both reading and writing with great frequency. Other types of assignments include: discussions, projects, group presentations etc. It is through the completion of class assignments that students gain the necessary skills to succeed in future English and composition courses as well as the workplace.

This course is dependent upon your keeping up with the rigorous reading and being prepared each day for discussion. Without adequate preparation you not only hinder the achievement of the class, but your own individual acquisition of knowledge.

### Grading Policy:

Grades for this course are based upon a total point system. Each assignment will be worth an assigned point value. The total points are calculated at the end of each quarter. The semester grade is the total of both quarters including the final semester exams. It is important that you make sure that you are on top of your grades at all times. We have online grade access. It is vital that students and parents monitor student grades. Please make sure that parents and students have the current log-in information. Parents, after you have checked the Online Academic Resource, feel free to email me to clarify any situations related to your students' progress. This course will follow a traditional percentage scale. Semester Finals will be 10% of your final semester grade.

### Homework

You can count on having homework most every night. Homework may include reading assignments, writing assignments, or simply studying for a test or quiz. You are encouraged to keep track of due dates using a daily planner or calendar. Whatever the assignment is, make sure you are coming to class prepared! Please refer to the student handbook section on Academics for further assistance with academic strategies.

### Participation

Much of what we learn in English comes from class discussion and interactions with those around us. You will find that many new ideas and inspirations for your writings will come from our class discussions. When we are engaged in learning activities, it is vital that all students are participating. You will not have electronics, phones, games or otherwise that may distract you from participating in the learning community. Please note: none of these devices are to be used during class. See Student Cell Phone Policy for further details. As you are reading the required novels, plays, speeches, essays or poems, be thinking of comments or questions that you can bring to class.

### General policies:

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work for full credit; if you fail to turn in an assignment, it is a zero. If you are on campus any period of time, you must turn in your assignment or it will be considered missing and you will receive a penalty. Late is after an assignment has been called for and collected. If you turn the assignment in after I have collected it, you will not receive credit for it.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** Taking PHOTOS of another's work, and then copying it is PLAGIARISM. Any assignment that is not your own work is plagiarism. Assignments found to be plagiarized will receive no credit. "Working together" resulting in the same or similar answers is not acceptable and is considered cheating. When you are not thinking about what you are writing down, you are not learning. Copying someone else's thoughts is not going to result in learning. We are striving to develop strong brains not strong hands. See Student Handbook for plagiarism policy for clarification. Copying answers from other students or copying answers from online resources, without giving proper citations, is plagiarism. Remember, you will not receive credit for plagiarized work. **DO NOT TURN IN WORK THAT IS NOT YOUR OWN!** I read everything that you turn-in, eventually, I will catch you and you will receive a zero.

**Absences:** It is your responsibility to get the work you miss during an absence. You are responsible for getting all missed assignments. When you are absent, check Schoolmaster and or with a friend to get the assignment prior to your return, or from me upon your return.

Each student is allowed two days make up day for each day that he/she is absent. Special circumstances may require special arrangements. Please notify me if any special circumstances arise. The late policy applies to the make-up work. No make-up work is given for unexcused absences. When a student misses a test, that test is to be taken within two days. Tests are made up at tutoring. If a student does not make- up a missed test, no points will be given for the missed test. If you are tardy, and you don't turn in your work on time, it is considered late, and will be graded accordingly. There is no make-up work for unexcused absences and or "tardies". Please see North Pointe Student Handbook for clarification. Please note: I enter zeros for any assignment that is missing at the time of grading. If it is determined that the assignment is missing due to an excused absence, the grade will be replaced with the grade earned by the student.

**Absence Due to Activity:**

See student handbook for guidelines. You are required to complete all assignments when you are out of my class.

**Missed Assignments:** (From NP Student Handbook) "It is the responsibility of the student to complete any missing assignments or tests due to an excused absence as follows:

1. Make-up work--a student has two days for each absence to complete missing assignments
2. Make-up privileges shall not exceed one week without written administrative approval
3. Missed Test--scheduled test will be administered on the day that the student returns to class.
4. Missed Quizzes-- Pop or announced quizzes will be made up at the teacher's discretion."
5. Reading Quizzes: There will be frequent reading quizzes in this course. Many of these quizzes will not be announced. When I assign a reading assignment, students are expected to complete this assignment. Students should be prepared to take a reading quiz the following day.

**Tardy Policy:** There are consequences for being late to class. If you are not on time to class, you will be assigned detention. If tardiness becomes chronic, this will be turned over for administrative consequences. Tardiness is unnecessary! When a student is in high school, SCHOOL IS A JOB. Being late to a job is unacceptable. Students will model behavior that reflects societal expectations. If a student is tardy, your assignment is tardy, and points will be deducted. If you are tardy, and you don't turn in your work on time, it is considered late, and will be graded accordingly. There is no make-up work for unexcused absences and or "tardies". Please see North Pointe Student Handbook for clarification.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

All Pointe Schools Expectations for classroom behavior are to be adhered to at all times:

- Be on Time
- Be Prepared
- Do Your Best Work
- Maintain an Environment for Learning
- Keep a Positive Attitude
- Take Responsibility
- Dress Appropriately
- Use Your Time Wisely

**Graduation/Awards:** (See NP handbook) Seniors who are not passing courses necessary for graduation by the end of the first day of school in May, will not participate in North Pointe's Senior Awards Night or Graduation even if they are passing the classes on the last day of school.

## **Respect for the Educational Environment** (from the student handbook)

### Electronic Device

Personal listening devices (cell phones, ipods, ipads/tablets mp3 players, etc. ) may not be used during class time without administrative approval. Additionally, ear plugs/ear phones, etc may not be worn or used during class time. \*\*\* See Student Handbook for policy.

**Headwear:** No caps, beanies, hoods, or any other form of headwear may be worn in the classroom.

**Cell Phone Use on Campus** \*\*\*See Student Handbook for specific details page 10  
Student cell phone numbers must be registered in the school office. Cell phones are not to be used or heard during class time. A violation of the Campus Cell Phone Use policy will result in the phone being confiscated and will be treated as a disciplinary matter. If I have to take cell phones, the cell phone will be turned into the 4A center for retrieval by the student at the end of the day. I will email your parent and you will have detention. If the behavior continues, you will be referred to the office for non-compliance and insubordination.

Here are a few of Ms. Richards' Rules: I think this about covers it all...

- Respect the Truth
- Try to Forgive
- Be Gentle
- Learn to love
- Laugh Often

**List of Materials:** A binder with a specific English section or a specific folder for English is required. This is the most important part of staying organized.

1. Post-it notes all sizes...but small is best for marking passages
2. 1 composition book or spiral notebook per semester
3. The novels or plays that we are reading

4. Hi-Lighters, (several colors are helpful)
5. Note Cards for making flashcards and for research assignments
6. Lots of binder paper

**Classroom materials and books:** Please note that many of the resources in the room are my personal property. I have gathered these materials so that we would have the most resources to enhance the learning environment. Please respect the materials and do not mistreat them.

**Students who fail a semester core course are required to attend Academic Friday School from 12:15 to 3:30 PM the following semester to make up credit. Students who fail to attend Academic Friday School are subject to disciplinary action.**

**Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high schools or online institutions.**

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and schedule as necessary to facilitate the objectives of the course.

Parents: I am pleased to have the opportunity to be your child's American Literature and Composition III teacher this year. I look forward to a fabulous year. Please feel free to email me with any questions about your student's progress during the year. If I can be of assistance in anyway throughout the year, please email me. Please read the course expectations and sign and return this sheet.

I have read the expectations for American Literature and Composition III.  
I will do my best to help my student follow these expectations.

Parent/Guardian Name:

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Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the expectations for American Literature and Composition III  
I will do my best to adhere to the expectations.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_