

**Honors American Lit.**  
**Dr. Noelle Money Kelly**  
**Email: [noelle.money@knoxschools.org](mailto:noelle.money@knoxschools.org)**

**Austin-East Magnet High School**

### **COURSE OUTCOME**

**Course Description:** English III College Prep is a course in American Literature, expository writing, critical thinking, grammar, and vocabulary. Students will be required to read and write on a daily basis. This course seeks to increase students' understanding of the English language through analyzing of texts, discussing ideas, and writing essays. Each lesson is based on TN Ready standards so that students will be well-prepared for the end-of-course exam that is worth 25% of the final grade.

**Tennessee State Curriculum Standards:** This year Tennessee public schools will fully implement TN Ready standards, which can be viewed here.  
[http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/std\\_eng\\_gr\\_11-12.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/std_eng_gr_11-12.pdf)

### **INSTRUCTION**

#### **Course Goals and Competencies:**

- To master all essential skills associated with English III TN Ready standards
- To improve analytical, practical, creative, and research-based thinking skills and to exhibit those thinking skills in writing and speaking
- To score "proficient" or "advanced" on the EOC exam

#### **Materials Needed EVERYDAY:**

Writing utensil (pen or pencil)  
Binder or folder to contain supplemental materials

#### **Required Texts (Resources provided by the school)**

Students who check out a textbook will be held financially responsible for any book not returned at the end of the course.

- *Prentice Hall Literature, Grade 11, Common Core Edition*

#### **Possible Major Works to be Read**

**(All texts are from the Knox County High School Designated List. If a book that is under consideration is not approved, a syllabus addendum will be sent home with a new text.)**

*Of Mice and Men, The Scarlet Letter, The Crucible, A Raisin in the Sun, How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (excerpts only),

Comprehension will be assessed through discussion, writing, and tests, and quizzes.

#### **Films for Enrichment**

Throughout the course of study, students **may** view films, film-clips, and documentaries, or educational programming directly correlated to their study if time permits. All audio-visuals will comply with Knox County Schools' guidelines.

When time permits and when appropriate, we will watch a video to reinforce or enhance a lesson.

**AV Materials Possibly Used:** *The Great Gatsby* (PG); *In Search of History: Salem Witch Trials* (Not Rated – From the History Channel); *Visual Connections* (Video program from Holt, Rinehart & Winston); *American Made- the Movie* (Short film - Not Rated); *A Death in the Family* (Not Rated – Made by PBS pictures), *The Glass Menagerie* (PG) *The American President* (segment only) PG-13, *Hot Coffee* (Unrated Documentary), *Various Television Commercials* (used as examples of persuasive

devices/rhetoric), *Additional Educational Videos may be shown from Discovery Education Streaming, YouTube, TED Talks, and Teacher Tube.*

### **Alternate Assignments/ Activities**

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the student's name, the specific activity/material in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want him or her exposed, and the nature of your objection.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **Expectations**

Student progress will be assessed through quizzes, writing prompts, discussion, projects, and research essays. Assessment schedules will vary with student needs, but the following may be used for each NINE WEEK MODULE:

#### **Reading Comprehension Quizzes**

**Benchmark Assessment every 3 weeks**

**4-6 Writing Assignments (informal) per Nine Week Module**

**1 Extended Writing Assignment (formal) per Nine Week Module**

**Additional quizzes and other classroom/homework assignments**

All assessments are out of a 100 point scale. Assignments are weighted as follows:

<b>Daily Work</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Formative Assessments</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Summative Assessments</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Projects</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>End of Course (State)</b>	<b>25%</b>

### **Knox County Grading Scale**

A 93-100%	B 85-92%	C 75-84%	D 70-74%	F 0-69 %
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### **Grading Policy and Parent Communication**

Parents and students may access student grades on the Knox County grade book portal. Due to the amount of time required to grade lengthy assignments, grades for some projects/essays may not be posted for one week. All other grades will be entered within one week of turning it in. If a parent or guardian has a question about a grade at ANY TIME, please call or email us for an update immediately.

Any student whose grade falls below satisfactory will be placed in an intervention during Power Hour; this is not optional. Students may also stay after school for tutoring.

### **General Pacing**

**Below is a TENTATIVE outline of what we'll be doing this semester. Order is subject to change based on the needs of the class as a whole.**

#### **Module 1: Mindset**

Narrative Writing

#### **Module 2: American Foundations**

Argument, Rhetorical Analysis

**Module 3: Puritans and Modernism**

Literary Analysis, Synthesis

**Module 4: Poetry**

Emerson, Thoreau, Researched Essay

**Module 5: Romanticism**

**Module 6: PBL**

Project Based Learning

**Makeup Work**

If you are absent, you will always have the opportunity to complete any missing assignments. However, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. When you are absent/need make-up work, please see your teacher at the end of the class period to receive your work.

Remember: Many activities we do in class involves group work, discussions, and small groups.

**Attendance is important** so that you receive ALL instruction necessary to do well in the course. If you miss the day before a scheduled test that includes no new instruction, you are still required to take that test or quiz. Make-up quizzes or tests may be taken during Intervention, but will generally NOT be given during class; you may make arrangements to make up the work before or after school.

**Late Work & Deadlines**

Projects, essays, and all assignments are due at the designated time. Any assignment not turned in on time (not including absences) will receive points deducted in accordance to the weight of the grade. Please utilize Aspen and Progress Reports to ensure that you have turned all work in. Working on late work during class instruction is NOT acceptable and will result in additional lost points.

**Extra Credit**

I generally give very few extra credit opportunities in this class. If any extra credit is given, it is due on time. Late extra credit assignments will NOT be accepted.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance:**

The most important key to success in my class is regular attendance; I expect you to be in class every single day ready to learn. Do not use your class time to visit other teachers or support staff such as Project Grad or guidance. You must be in class, ready to learn and work from bell to bell. Your grade in class is closely related to your attendance. When you miss class, your progress suffers and so does your grade. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE HERE.**



**Classroom Rules:**

**Be present and engaged.**

**Behave in such a way as to respect the learning experience of every student in class.**

**Cell Phones**

I will reward students who demonstrate outstanding self-control, and *voluntarily* place their cell phones or other electronic devices in “Cell Phone Station” during the entire class period. **If you choose to keep your device on your person, you may NOT use it. If you do so without permission, you will receive a disciplinary referral.**

**Food & Drinks**

You may bring a snack or a drink to class as long as the classroom stays clean. This is a privilege which will be lost if our room becomes messy or food/trash is left behind.

### **Bathroom Breaks**

**Administration has stressed that bathroom breaks during class time are for emergencies only.** You may not use the restroom the first fifteen minutes or *before* the last fifteen minutes of school, per school policy. You may NOT use a pass while we are giving direct instruction or while we are reading out loud.

**Internet Usage** All students must have parental consent prior to using Internet at school without consideration for whether in the library or classroom location. **Internet use is for academic purposes only.**

## **HONOR CODE/PLAGIARISM POLICY**

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Plagiarism is defined by the Harbrace Handbook, 15<sup>th</sup> edition as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.” It includes but is not limited to the following: “1) copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work; 2) Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source; 3) Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source; 4) Using all or part of a literary plot, poem or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

### **Sharing Work/ Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in class. Individual work should not be shared; the assignment will simply receive a grade of **0**. If more than one person is involved, all parties will receive a grade of **0**. Do not give your work to another student, even if the person was absent, was out of the room for part of the assignment, or missed an assignment. Furthermore, during quizzes and tests, any talking will be considered cheating and will result in a zero. **Grades earned for cheating may NOT be made up and will NOT be dropped.**

## **TEACHER EXPECTATIONS**

**Communication:** The best way to reach me is by email. I check it several times a day and can respond quickly. You may also call the school phone (594-3792) and leave a message. The best way to communicate with me outside of school is via email. I also have a Twitter account I frequently use. Follow me at **@KStarksy**

**Remind:** To effectively communicate group messages, I have set up a “remind” that allows students (and parents!) to receive a text message of important reminders for English 11. There are several ways to join, one of them being text the message @eng11aehs to (408) 335-6592.

**Tutoring & Extra Help:** I am available to help after school by appointment. If you want or need to stay after, let me know so I can make sure that I stay in the building.