

**Alvin C. York Institute Syllabus
“To Prepare and Excel”**

Course Title: English III

Instructor: Dr. Erin Smith

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I and English II

Textbook: *Prentice Hall Literature—The American Experience*
Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, To Kill a Mockingbird,
A Raisin in the Sun, 1984, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

Materials Needed: three-ring notebook with dividers, pencils and blue/black pens, red pen (or some type of marker) for corrections, highlighters (at least four colors) ear buds/headphones for use with chrome books.

Required Internet Access:

- Sign up with **remind.com** to receive class updates via text message (**students and parents**). ****See attached instruction sheet****

- Log in to google classroom and join the appropriate class section. (**Instructions provided in class.**)

Course Description:

English III is designed to introduce students to specific works in the cannon of American literature and to cultivate the skills and knowledge-base necessary for success on the English/Reading portions of the ACT exam.

Course Content and Objectives:

This course follows the standards and performance indicators as outlined in the Tennessee English Language Arts Standards for English III and TN Ready Standards—including the tested skills outline for the English and Reading portions of the ACT exam.

Instructional Philosophy:

Class discussion, individual/group presentations, reading aloud, film as text, computer-assisted research, intensive vocabulary study, pen/paper practice, note-taking, extensive writing, listening skills, and hands-on activities.

Course Expectations:

Be Present

Good attendance is necessary for success in this course. The expectation of “being present” means much more, however, than simply occupying a chair in the classroom. Students are expected to come to class and be actively engaged in the instruction and activities going on in the classroom. “Being present” will be considered part of your participation grade for each grading period of the course.

Course Notebook

Good note taking and organization are both important for success in academic courses. Each student is expected to maintain a three-ring binder as a course notebook. The binder should be divided into the following sections: 1) Learning Targets/ Daily Agenda; 2) ACT Vocabulary; 2) ACT Grammar/Rhetoric; 3) ACT Reading; 4) Writing; 5) Literature. Notebooks will be checked (unannounced) a few times throughout each grading period. A quiz grade will be assigned based on a random check for specific elements in the notebook. A participation grade will be assigned based on neatness, level of organization, and completeness.

Full Year Grading Policy:

****PLEASE NOTE: All grades will be kept updated as regularly as possible in Skyward. Please take advantage of this and check grades often throughout the year.****

1st 9 Weeks:

ACT Skills 15%

Daily Work/Home Work/Participation 15%

Quizzes 30%

Tests/Essays 40%

****9 Weeks Exam will count as 2 test grades****

2nd 9 Weeks:

ACT Skills 15%

Daily Work/Home Work/Participation 15%

Quizzes 30%

Tests/Essays 40%

****Midterm Exam will count as 3 test grades****

3rd 9 Weeks:

ACT Skills 15%

Daily Work/Home Work/Participation 15%

Quizzes 30%

Tests/Essays 40%

****9 Weeks Exam will count as 2 test grades****

4th 9 Weeks:

Daily Work/Home Work/Participation 15%

Quizzes 30%

Tests/Essays 40%

ACT Accountability 15% --**(To be determined by administrative decision.)**

****Final Exam will count as 3 test grades****

Tentative Course Schedule (The following represents a very general overview of topics to be covered. Changes will almost certainly be made.)

Grading Period	Planned Topics
1st 9 weeks	ACT English test prep; ACT vocabulary; Essay organization; Using text evidence; Intro to MLA style
2nd 9 weeks	ACT English test practice; ACT Reading test prep; ACT vocabulary; topics in literature; academic research; writing a research paper; MLA documentation
3rd 9 weeks	ACT Reading test practice; ACT Vocabulary; topics in literature; writing skills
4th 9 weeks	topics in literature; writing skills

Classroom Policies:

Bathroom Breaks

Students have sufficient time for restroom use during class changes. There will be no hall passes provided for bathroom breaks.

Nurse Visits

Our school nurse is a wonderful resource for our students. However, many students abuse the ability to go see the nurse. This results in classroom interruption and an overflowing nurse's office. Simple matters such as cough drops, Band-Aids, or medicine for headaches should be taken care of between classes. Students who are truly ill or injured will of course be sent to the nurse, but students with minor issues will be asked to wait until the end of the class period.

Tardies

Students who are not seated when the bell rings will be counted tardy to class. If a student accrues three tardies during a nine-week period, the student will be considered absent for one full class period. This will affect consideration for finals exemption. If a student accrues a fourth tardy in a nine-week period, the student will be sent to the office. After the fourth tardy, any subsequent tardies will be referred directly to Coach Wright.

Testing Procedures

Only students who have excused absences will be permitted to make-up tests and quizzes. Students with unexcused absences will receive a zero for the test or quiz.

Homework/Participation

Classroom assignments and class participation are essential to a productive learning environment and successful completion of the course. Students are expected to turn in work on time. The practice, knowledge gained, and feedback from the instructor will ultimately factor into success on the summative assessments and the ACT. All work is expected on the due date. Only students with excused absences will be permitted to turn in work missed. Those students with unexcused absences will receive a zero for assignments missed.

Absences/Early-Dismissal/Late Arrival

Attendance is crucial to success in this course. Film is used in several instances as a basis for writing assignments and projects. If students miss a film day, this cannot be made up unless the student can find access to the film outside class. However, students **are still responsible** for the missed material and **will be expected** to complete the assignment.

Students who must miss class should follow the established school procedure for returning to class. Students who are absent must present a blue slip to the teacher at the beginning of class on the day they return. Students who sign in or out must have a white slip signed upon entering or leaving the classroom.

Makeup Work

The teacher will list class activities daily in google classroom as well as uploading any handouts or notes. This will allow the student to see immediately what is going on in class on that day. However, upon returning to class, students see the teacher regarding make-up work. Do not assume that make-up work will be given without request. **Only students with excused absences will be permitted to turn in make-up work.** Students who have unexcused absences will receive a zero for each assignment missed during the unexcused absence. Students with an excused absence will have three days from the date they return to school to complete make-up work. All tests will be made up before or after school in an assigned location.

****Missing class or part of class on a film day puts students at a disadvantage because this cannot be made up unless the student finds access to the film outside of class. Students will still be expected to participate/complete assignments based on film viewed in class. Absences can be detrimental to a student's performance on these assignments.****

Missing Assigned Activity Period

If a student is assigned to spend activity period with the teacher and chooses not to attend, the student will be assigned to after school detention.

Classroom Rules

Classroom Motto: "Attitude is Everything."

Listen to directions

Enter and exit prepared

Always try your best

Respect others

No excuses

1. Be in class, **seated**, and ready to work when the bell rings. (3 tardies will equal one absence)
2. Bring required materials everyday (pencil/pen, paper, textbook, assignments, etc.)
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. No candy, food, or drinks in the classroom.
5. Cell phones and other electronic devices are permitted **ONLY** when being utilized as part of classroom work. Please keep these items out of use during all other instructional time. Devices in use without permission will be confiscated and turned in to Coach Wright.

Consequences

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: Student will spend ten minutes of activity period with the teacher.
- 3rd Offense: Student will spend full activity period with the teacher.
- 4th Offense: Student will be assigned one hour of after school detention or sent to Coach Wright.

****Severe Clause: Immediate removal from the classroom and sent to Coach Wright.****

Parent/Guardian Signature/Information Page

Please complete and return to school with your student.

By signing below I am indicating that I have read and understand the attached course information and classroom expectations for English III AND I have received the information about signing up for REMIND notifications.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please provide a phone number and email where you can be contacted. I will have important information to share about the course throughout the year and I would like to be able to contact all parents regularly by email.

Parent/Guardian phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions. I will be able to respond most quickly to emails.

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