Course Title: English 3 Honors

Course #: 1233-1234

Course Description: This course explores some of the traditions, innovations, and complexities in writing in the Americas. We will explore the nuances of writing throughout the different eras in American history, focusing on the attitudes that shaped the writing of the time. Emphasis is given to reading comprehension and analysis of these works in discussion, essays, projects, and your critical paper. You will also be introduced to rhetoric and literary criticism this year. Consider this class as an introduction to college-level thinking, reading, writing, and rhetoric.

UC/CSU Approval: “b” approved

Grade Level: 11

Estimated Homework Per Week: 3-4 hours, depending on the type of assignments and student’s reading/writing stamina

Prerequisite: Completion of English 2 or 2 Honors with a grade of B or higher

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Students entering English 3H are self-motivated, dedicated learners who have a willingness to read challenging texts, to think critically, and to participate as active members of the classroom environment. Students must utilize active reading strategies when approaching texts including the regular use of annotations. Students can exhibit advanced writing skills by demonstrating organization, varied sentence structure, and proper MLA and CDW format.

Course Grade Categories:
- 40% Writing (CDW paragraphs, essays, dialectical journals)
- 15% Participation, oral communication and digital literacy (socratic seminars, projects, presentations; discussion board posts, Flipgrid responses)
- 25% Classwork/Homework
- 20% Final exam

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Semester 1

1. Introduction Unit
   a. Personal introductions
b. Essential Questions: What makes you American? What is your own American history? What is the importance of reading American Literature


d. Written Assessment On-Demand Literary Analysis

2. Unit 1: The American Identity

a. Essential Questions: What is an “American?” How is an American identity created? Why have people come to America, and why do they continue to come?

b. Possible Texts: *There There*, Tommy Orange; *The Book of Unknown Americans*, Cristina Henriquez; Excerpt from *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan; Excerpt from *The Gangster We’re All Looking For*, Le Thi Diem Thuy; Excerpts from *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*; *Kindred*, Octavia Butler; Poems from Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Francisco X. Alarcon, and Richard Blanco; The Declaration of Independence

c. WRITTEN ASSESSMENT: Argument Essay on American Identity

3. Unit 2: Song of Myself: Identity, Conformity, and Society

a. Essential Questions: What is the role of the individual in society? What is “good” for the community, and what does this mean for individuals? Why do people conform, and why do others choose not to conform? What happens to individuals as a result of these choices? Do words have the power to change the world?


c. WRITTEN ASSESSMENT: Literary Analysis and Dialectical Journals

Semester 2:

1. Unit 3: American Dreams and Nightmares

a. Essential Questions: What is “the American Dream?” To what extent is it achievable by all? What values does it reflect? Is America a classless society? Can we repeat the past?


c. WRITTEN ASSESSMENT: Literary Critique Essay

2. Unit 4: In Search of America

a. Essential Questions: Is the journey as important as the destination? How do we relate to our friends, families, communities, and society? To what extent is each
relationship important? How do our personal journeys shape who we become? What is our responsibility to our society and nature? How does our faith tie into this?

b. Possible Texts: Selected Book Club novel (list will be provided); Examples: *Wild, Tortilla Curtain, Into the Wild, The Grapes of Wrath, Rain of Gold, On the Road, As I Lay Dying, The Sun Also Rises, The Devil’s Highway, Their Eyes Were Watching God, March, A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Short Stories;* Poems by Mary Oliver,

c. WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS: Literary Analysis Essay

d. PROJECTS: Personal Narrative Essay and Digital Storytelling Podcast