

# English III

## 2011-2012 Syllabus

| Instructor   | Email                | Phone        |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Mr. Surguine | bsurguine@yumaed.org | 928.502.5578 |

- Location: Room 919
- Period: 4
- Office hours: 7:00 - 7:20 a.m. Monday – Friday, 2:40 – 3:30 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

### Course Description

This course will help students improve as readers and writers and prepare them to succeed in their future classes and careers. We will read, discuss and write about powerful literature that has shaped the United States from the 1700s through to the present day. We will study poetry, short stories, novels, plays, essays and speeches. Through readings, projects, activities and discussions students will advance their ability to recognize and use literary devices such as figurative language; write and deliver persuasive arguments; respond articulately to literature; write expressively; and conduct research.

### Grading

| Letter Grade Scale | Assignment Weight       | Semester Grade         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 90-100% = A        | Homework = 15%          | Grading Period 1 = 30% |
| 80-89% = B         | Quizzes and Tests = 15% | Grading Period 2 = 30% |
| 70-79% = C         | Class Work = 30%        | Grading Period 3 = 25% |
| 60-69% = D         | Writing Projects = 40%  | Final Exam = 15%       |
| 0-59% = F          |                         |                        |

### Expectations

1. *Every student will be on time.* Students will be in their seats when class starts, with backpack or purse on the floor, folder at the ready, handouts picked up, and pencil and paper out, already working on the daily warm up.
2. *Every student will be prepared.* Students will bring to class every day the materials they need to be successful: pencils, paper, readings, assignments being worked on, completed assignments, homework, and brains.
3. *Every student will be positive.* Students will learn and share and grow with a positive attitude.
4. *Every student will be respectful.* Honor your right and others' rights to happiness and opportunity. Honor the hard work that goes into maintaining this school.

It is also expected that every student follows all rules in the Kofa Kings Student Handbook. These rules include but are not limited to: tardy policy, hats, electronic devices, language, etc.

### Calendar

This calendar is provided to let you know generally what to expect. The actual time spent on any subject is likely to change.

#### Semester One

- Weeks 1-2 : How to be successful in this class.

- Weeks 3-4 : The Hero's Journey. We will learn about a narrative arc shared by many of the great stories throughout time and across cultures.
- Weeks 5-7 : Rhetoric and persuasive writing. We will identify persuasive techniques in important American essays and speeches and practice using these techniques in writing and speech.
- Weeks 8-11: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. We will analyze the play from different perspectives: as an example of the hero's journey, as social commentary, and as a cultural artifact that tells us about the anxieties and preoccupations of a time in the past.
- Weeks 12-14: The writing of Edgar Allen Poe: setting, mood, theme and figurative language. We will read Poe to understand how literary devices contribute to the impact and meaning of narrative writing. We will attempt to employ literary devices in our own writing for deliberate effects.
- Weeks 15-17: American short stories: characterization and plot. The short story as we know it is an American invention, like Jazz and the Atomic bomb. We will briefly study examples of American short stories to understand how character and plot shape the genre.
- Weeks 18-20: Semester Review and final exam. We will review and reflect on the semester's work in preparation for the final exam and the spring semester.

### *Semester Two*

- Weeks 1-5: F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. We will analyze this novel as a cultural artifact that tells us about the anxieties and preoccupations of a time in the past. We will also explore how reading fiction can inspire questions we'd never before asked. Later in the semester you will conduct research into a question inspired either by this novel or by *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- Weeks 6-10: Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. We will analyze this novel as representing an important American narrative that has either shaped or reflects our culture and many of the stories we produce. We will read, discuss and watch other stories that share a similar narrative arc. We will also again explore how reading fiction can inspire questions we'd never before asked in preparation for your research project.
- Weeks 11-15: Research project. We will advance our research skills by developing insightful research questions inspired by readings and learning how to answer them with authority and credibility through disciplined evaluations of sources and expertly crafted, original writing that accurately cites others' work.
- Weeks 16-18: Study of an American novel yet to be determined. You will have a say in what we read, how we think about it, and what kinds of questions we ask about it.
- Weeks 19-20: Semester Review and final exam. We will review and reflect on the semester's work in preparation for the final exam and for Senior English.

### **Materials**

You will need these items every day: paper or a notebook, pens or pencils, and any materials provided to you in class such as handouts, textbooks and paperback novels and plays.

### **Interventions**

Students are expected to follow classroom and campus rules and expectations. If a student is struggling with these expectations, the following steps will be taken:

1. Conference with student
2. Behavior reflection completed by student
3. Phone call home
4. After school detention
5. Discipline referral

Some or all of the above steps may be skipped in the case of severe offenses that endanger students, teachers and/or property.