

English III Syllabus 2024-2025

Ms. Marilla Morrison
Ragsdale High School - A227
morrism8@gcsnc.com

Welcome! To English III, to my classroom, and to Ragsdale as you begin your next chapter in your story of high school! In this course we will strengthen our reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical skills by analyzing texts from a variety of literary genres with a lens toward American Literature. I hope that by the end of this course you will have gained a broader understanding of texts that you may encounter in future classes or careers. I hope that you will feel more confident in your ability to clearly communicate your thoughts in a variety of contexts. I hope that you will leave this class with big questions about language, literature, and life to carry you forward to wherever your curiosity leads you.

Daily Expectations

Supplies

You should bring a notebook, a writing utensil, your laptop and charger to every class, along with any handouts and texts for the current unit. If you face any obstacle in getting supplies, please let me know. There are some supplies available through the school.

- A reusable water bottle
- Pencils
- Pens
- At least 2 colors of highlighters
- A notebook
- A folder to collect handouts
- Headphones/earbuds (to connect with your chromebook)

Entering class

Enter class ready to begin working as soon as the bell rings. Please use the restroom, fill your water bottle, and finish conversations in between classes. Instructions for a warm-up activity will be on the board. Please begin working on your warm-up immediately when the bell rings. Your warm-up may consist of journal prompts, quiet independent reading time, or vocabulary/grammar exercises.

Bathroom breaks / Hall passes

Students should avoid leaving the classroom for any reason. It is school policy that no hall or bathroom passes are given in the first and last fifteen (15) minutes of class. If necessary, students may ask to use the restroom and should be gone no longer than 5 minutes. Only one student may leave for the restroom at a time. Hall passes for other occasions (counselor visits, etc.) are granted at the teacher's discretion.

This year Ragsdale is one of several schools implementing SmartPass. SmartPass is a digital system that allows our school to monitor hallway traffic and get real-time information about all the students in the building that are out of class.

- It helps control the flow of students and ensures students get the most out of the school day.
- Streamlines school processes, improves safety and security, and helps manage student movement.
- Reduces disruptions so that teachers can focus more on teaching and students can maximize their learning times.

Class norms

1. Be here now.
When in class, try not to worry about what happened right before class or what will happen after this class. Practice being present.
2. Make your daily best effort.
Your personal best may look a bit different each day. However, it is crucial to your success and the well-being of the community that you consistently contribute to the best of your ability. We will all be better for what you have to share. Additionally, do not compare yourself to others or concern yourself with matters of others beyond your personal responsibility.
3. Give the gift of your full attention.
Your attention is a gift. Please do not withhold this gift from your peers or teacher when they are sharing their thoughts. That means not talking over others as well as engaging in thoughtful reflection and conversation.
4. Presume positive intentions.
We all bring a diverse set of experiences to the classroom. This may result in possible misunderstanding. So, assume that others are not intentionally trying to confuse or insult you. Instead, ask for clarification when you need it.
5. When you know better, do better.
People make mistakes. When you realize that you have made a mistake, correct it and move forward having learned.
6. Treat yourself and others with kind respect.
Be mindful in your choices. Everyone deserves kindness and respect.

Homework

When assigned, expect to spend an average of 20 minutes on weeknights, with projects and tests possibly requiring more time. Homework will be shared in class but will always be posted on Canvas. Even if you are absent, you should be able to access assignments on Canvas.

Formal assessments

There will be one formal assessment (test, project, or essay) each unit. Students will always be given at least one week's notice before the assessment.

Core Texts

Guilford County Schools provides the MyPerspectives textbook to every student in their English courses. The MyPerspectives curriculum will be the foundation for this English III course. Other core texts may include:

- *Desiree's Baby*
- *Great Gatsby*
- *A Raisin in the Sun*
- *Fences*
- *All About Love: New Visions*
- *Bless Me, Ultima*
- *Whereas*
- *The Joy Luck Club*
- *Grapes of Wrath*

Students should not need to purchase any texts for this course, but that is subject to change. If necessary, students will be notified well ahead of time.

Grading

Students can expect an average of two graded assignments per week. The contribution for each assignment category to the final grade average is below:

Semester Grade: 80%

Academic Readiness: 20%

- This category considers preparedness and participation in class.

Formative Assessments: 30%

- This category includes assignments and quizzes.

Summative Assessments: 50%

- This category includes unit formal assessments like tests, projects, and essays.

End of Course Exam: 20%

Late Work & Absences

Late work will be accepted without penalty. However, late work could affect a student's preparedness and participation in class.

The responsibility lies with the student to make up any work in case of an absence. If you miss a day, you have the number of days you missed plus two additional days to submit any missing work before a zero is entered in the gradebook. All work is posted on Canvas. Please do not ask Ms. Morrison about work missed during absences before checking Canvas and reading assignment instructions.

Quiz/Test Retakes & Tutoring

Retakes are not offered for weekly quizzes. Students may edit an assignment if they are unsatisfied with the grade. Students may retake a summative assessment by scheduling a tutoring session with Ms. Morrison.

Ms. Morrison offers at least one session of tutoring each week from 4:25-5:15pm. Her standard offering is Monday, but additional times may be scheduled at student request.

Use of Electronic Devices

During class, phones and personal devices should be silenced or turned off and put away for the entirety of the class period. Students are expected to turn in their cell phone as they enter the classroom to their assigned pocket and collect it as they exit. If I see a student on their phone or smart watch during class, they will receive a written or verbal warning. Further uses will result in parent/guardian notification and a write-up. The school-wide electronic use policies will be displayed in the classroom.

Ethical Expectations: Plagiarism & Artificial Intelligence Policy

As principled students, you are expected to produce your own authentic work and to fully and accurately acknowledge any words, ideas, images, etc. that come from any sources other than yourself. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, fabrication/falsification, and sabotage) will not be tolerated.

Additionally, students should be wary of the use of artificial intelligence tools that promise to assist with or complete academic assignments. These tools may not be used for the generation of content, ideas, or concepts in assignments. AI-generated content, even if properly cited, is not allowed to be included in the final submission.

The style guide used for formatting and referencing in this course is Modern Language Association (MLA).

If your submitted work is suspected or discovered to be academically dishonest, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Upon the second and all further instances, you will receive a zero for the assignment and may be referred to administration.

If your submitted work is suspected or discovered to have benefited from or have been created by AI tools, you will be required to redo the assignment on paper/by hand in the teacher's presence in order to receive credit.

The most important guideline here is if you have a question about academic integrity, ask BEFORE submitting it on Canvas.

Contract

Please sign below. Cut on the line above and return the signed slip for a grade.

Contract

I, _____ agree to the terms outlined in this syllabus and will uphold them throughout the course. I have read and shared this with my parents and understand what is expected of me each day. I also understand that I will be held accountable for failure to uphold any of the information stated in this syllabus.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date