

English III Honors Course Syllabus

Course Instructor: Seth Beiler - sbeiler@wcpss.net

Course Description:

The skills and knowledge captured in the ELA/literacy standards are designed to prepare students for life outside the classroom. They include critical-thinking skills and the ability to closely and attentively read texts in a way that will help them understand and enjoy complex works of literature. Students will learn to use cogent reasoning and evidence collection skills that are essential for success in college, career, and life. The standards also lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person who is prepared for success in the 21st century.

Supplies Needed:

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

3-Ring Binder w/ dividers, paper, pencils, blue or black pens, highlighters

Texts:

Here is a proposed list of texts that may be read as a whole or in excerpted form:

The Crucible, Arthur Miller

In Cold Blood, Truman Capote

The Crisis, Thomas Paine

A Rose for Emily, William Faulkner

from *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau

from *Self-Reliance*, Ralph Waldo Emerson

...and other selected poems and short stories

Possible Literature Circle Texts:

Students will read at least one of the following:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain), *The Scarlet Letter* (Nathaniel Hawthorne), *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Zora Neale Hurston), *The Joy Luck Club* (Amy Tan), *Beloved* (Toni Morrison), *Black Boy* (Richard Wright), *A Farewell to Arms* (Ernest Hemingway)

Textbooks:

When textbooks are issued to students, students become responsible for returning them in the same condition as when issued, except for normal wear. Charges will be assessed for lost and damaged books. Students may be denied participation in prom or other school-sponsored activities if they have any debt to school.

Grading Policy:

60% Major - 20% Minor - 15% Homework/Classwork - 5% Classroom Engagement

Major assignments consist of tests, papers, and unit projects, while minor assignments consist of quizzes, study questions, etc. The North Carolina Final Exam for English III counts for 20% of a student's final grade.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and usually involves reading and/or writing. All homework is meaningful and of value and is expected to be completed before scheduled class time. No late homework will be accepted.

Policy for Make-up Assignments:

Student attendance is critical for academic success. If a student misses class, (s)he should refer to the Wake County Student Handbook for the district's make-up work policy. Teachers will work with students to create a reasonable timeline to complete make-up work.

Late Work:

If a student is not absent but fails to turn in a major assignment on the day that it is due, the assignment will be graded when it is submitted, but ten points will be deducted from the score of the assignment for each day that the assignment is late (not to exceed 40 points deducted or 4 days late). If a student fails to turn in a major assignment altogether, then no credit will be issued for that assignment.

PCHS Basic Expectations:

Be present and on time.
Be prepared for and engaged in learning.
Be a person of character.
Be safe and comply with PCHS and WCPSS policies.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in school is central to educational achievement and school success. Attendance and participation in class is an integral part of the learning process and thereby a part of the grade earned. Additionally, regular attendance develops patterns of behavior essential to success in later life. While there are times when students must be absent from school due to physical inability to attend, it must be understood that parents or legal guardians have the responsibility for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

Note that parents will be contacted after a student has accumulated three unexcused absences or five excused absences. Learning can only take place if the student is present and engaged; therefore, it is the student's responsibility to be present and punctual.

Tardy Policy:

Beginning class on time and valuing learning are at the heart of what makes Panther Creek a superior high school. All students should be in their assigned classroom or location before the tardy bell rings. Any student who has an unexcused tardy to class is subject to the following:

- 1st tardy for semester = Teacher warning
- 2nd tardy for semester = Teacher-determined consequence
- 3rd tardy for semester = School lunch detention and parent communication
- 4th and subsequent tardies for semester = Administrative referral

Cell Phones:

Cell phones may be used for course purposes only – additional cell phone use will not be tolerated. English III students are expected to understand appropriate phone usage. Abuse of this expectation will result in the following consequences.

Catamount Consequences:

Behavior that does not adhere to the school and classroom basic expectations will be handled as follows:

- Student/teacher conference
- Parent contact/teacher determined consequence
- Lunch detention
- Referral to administration

SMART Lunch:

Panther Creek High School offers SMART Lunch, an extended single lunch period. Each teacher has been assigned two days per week to offer tutorials. In order to receive credit for attending SMART lunch, your attendance must be documented. While attending SMART lunch, students are expected to work quietly on English III related assignments, to complete make-up work, or to receive additional help.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a Level II offense and violates the Student Code of Conduct. An administrative referral will be made for all infractions of this nature. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for information regarding Academic Integrity.