

English III Syllabus
Mr. Fasano – Buena Park High School – 2008-09

Course Description: Students read, interpret, analyze, and evaluate various works of *American Literature*. Students read from a variety of genres from various time periods including short stories, poetry, drama, novels and essays. Works represent authors from various cultures and perspectives. Students write for various purposes and audiences including expository, analytical and argumentative writing. A research project is an integral component of the course.

Standards and Benchmarks:

Vocabulary Benchmarks

- The student acquires, understands and uses vocabulary through explicit instruction and independent reading. The student appropriately uses these words in writing.
- The student determines the meaning of unfamiliar words by using dictionaries, context clues and reference sources.
- The student knows several ways to determine the meaning of unknown words, including applying knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, suffixes, word roots and word origins.

Comprehension Benchmarks

- The student monitors comprehension and knows how and when to use strategies that clarify understanding of a text.
- The student understands and evaluates the purpose, accuracy, comprehensiveness and usefulness of informational materials.
- The student analyzes a variety of nonfiction materials selected from journals, essays, speeches, biographies and autobiographies.
- The student evaluates the clarity and accuracy of information, as well as the credibility of sources.

Literature Benchmarks

- *American Literature:* The student reads, analyzes and evaluates traditional and contemporary works of American literature.
- The student analyzes, interprets and evaluates the use of figurative language and imagery (including symbolism, tone, irony and satire) in fiction and nonfiction selections.
- The student analyzes and evaluates the relationship between and among elements of literature: character, setting, plot, tone, rising action, climax, falling action, point of view, theme, conflict and resolution.
- The student analyzes poetic devices in classic and contemporary poems.
- The student reads, analyzes and critiques dramatic selections by comparing and contrasting ways in which character, scene, dialogue and staging contribute to the theme and dramatic effect.

Writing Benchmarks

- The student plans, organizes and composes narrative, expository and descriptive writing to address a specific audience and purpose.
- The student uses printed sources, electronic databases and online resources to access information, organize ideas, and develop writing.
- The student evaluates and organizes relevant information from a variety of sources, verifying the accuracy and usefulness of this gathered information.
- The student credits sources of information using a standard documentation method such as a style sheet from the Modern Language Association (MLA).

Materials

You will need the following materials each day:

- 3-ring binder, at least 1 ½-inch wide
- a spiral notebook
- black or blue pens for final drafts and formal work
- a pencil for drafts, tests, and informal work
- a highlighter (you may wish to purchase several different colors for the purpose of color-coding)
- any and all texts we are currently studying

Contact

The best way to reach me is via e-mail: teacher@yourengishclass.com. My room phone number is 714-992-8712. I also encourage you to utilize the website www.yourengishclass.com.

This syllabus is subject to change as the needs of the class dictate.