

**Academic Year: 2009-2010**  
**Course:** American Literature

**Instructor:** Mr. Kenneth Trani

### **Expectations**

**Classroom Behavior** -- It is expected that all students will act with respect toward the teacher and all other members of the class.

Although water may be drunk during class, no other liquids are permitted without the approval of the school nurse. Gum chewing and eating are also not permitted; however, with the permission of the nurse, hard candy may be used when needed.

The desks are not waste baskets! Please dispose of any trash in the waste basket either before or after class. Also, desks may be used to store books overnight only with the teacher's permission.

**Class Participation** -- All students are expected to contribute to class discussions. Class participation does not mean that the teacher reaches into your throat to extract an answer or a comment; it means that you, the student, volunteer the same. Asking relevant questions is as important as answering them and counts toward class participation, as does respectfully commenting on what another person has said.

Class participation also includes having the correct materials for each class. This includes the correct book; paper for note taking, quizzes, or tests; and something which to write. Except for work required to be typewritten, all written work must be done neatly in pencil or *blue* or *black ink*.

**Homework** -- Students are required to pass in all homework assignments on the due date when they are collected during class. Anything turned in after this will be considered late unless prior arrangements have been made. Points will be deducted from all late assignments, and persistent late assignments will adversely affect one's end-of-term grade. If a student is absent, assignments are expected on the date she returns to class. (In the event of protracted absences, special arrangements may be made ahead of time.)

Since this is an English class, many homework assignments will be in the form of reading. It cannot be stressed too strongly that ***reading assignments are not optional***. To help students fulfill their obligation to complete reading assignments, unannounced quizzes will be given from time to time based on the previous night's assignment

Longer-term writing assignments (analytical essays, research papers, etc.) are also expected to be passed in on time. Anything handed in after the moment when the assignment is collected in class is considered late (unless other arrangements have been made *well in advance*). The school policy for late essays and research papers is one letter-grade deduction for each late day.

**Speech:** Every upper-school student at Linden Hall is required to give an assembly speech, approximately three to five minutes in length, on a date determined well in advance. The topic must be discussed with the instructor a minimum of one week prior to the speech, and the student is required to go over the speech with the instructor at least a day or two in advance of the assigned date. Although such an assignment might seem daunting to some, the assembly speech is an integral part of life at Linden Hall, and many students find giving one far easier than they had expected.

**Grading:** The trimester grade is determined by a combination of assessment methods. The weighting factors are as follows:

Essays	25%
Tests	25%

Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Literature Quizzes	10%
Speech	5%
Mid-year/Final Exam	25%

Please note that cheating and plagiarism, a topic that will be discussed at length at the beginning of the school year and again before beginning the research paper (second trimester), are unacceptable. A student caught cheating will receive a zero for a test or quiz grade; school policy requires that any student who plagiarizes will not only receive a zero for the paper but must do another one for no credit.

**Books:** The major texts for this class will be paperback copies of novels, plays, and poetry anthologies that will be distributed individually as needed. The only book that will be used all year will be *Eleventh Grade Vocabulary Power Plus, Book 3*, which will be distributed at the beginning of the school year. Please note that it is imperative that you bring the appropriate book to class for each day.

**PSAT/SAT Preparation:** In order to help students prepare for the PSAT and/or SAT, practice quizzes and essays will be done in class on an occasional basis. At the beginning of the year, this work will be considered only as practice; however, as the year progresses, this work will be included as part of the students' assessment.

**Independent Reading:** Each trimester every student will be responsible for reading a grade-appropriate book on her own and giving an oral report of it to the teacher. Books may be either fiction or nonfiction. Dates for independent reading reports will be assigned each trimester.

## Tentative Schedule for English 11

Please note that this schedule lists primarily major units and works of literature that will be discussed in class. Vocabulary, composition, essays, tests, and SAT review work will be interspersed on a regular basis throughout each trimester. Dates for essays, tests, and vocabulary quizzes are always announced well in advance.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Major Work</u>
1	Plagiarism; diacritical marks; Kate Chopin stories
2	Kate Chopin stories
3	test and essay on Kate Chopin stories
4	<i>O Pioneers!</i>
5	<i>O Pioneers!</i>
6	<i>O Pioneers!</i> (finish and essay)
7	<i>The Crucible</i> ; SAT review, composition review, etc.
8	<i>The Crucible</i> (finish and test)
9	<i>We Have Always Lived in the Castle</i>
10	<i>We Have Always Lived in the Castle</i>
11	<i>We Have Always Lived in the Castle</i> (finish and essay)

---

1	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>
2	<i>Hamlet</i>
3	<i>Hamlet</i>
4	<i>Hamlet</i>
5	<i>Hamlet</i> (test and essay)
6	Research paper procedures*
7	Great American Poetry
8	Great American Poetry; <i>Spoon River Anthology</i>
9	Review and mid-term examinations
10	<i>Spoon River Anthology</i> ; <i>The Crucible</i>
11	<i>The Crucible</i>
12	<i>The Crucible</i> (finish and essay)

\* Because of the complexity and time involved in writing a research paper, much of the work listed here will be covered in class; homework and out-of-class time can thus better be applied to the research and writing of the paper.

---

1	<i>Ethan Frome</i>
2	<i>Ethan Frome</i>
3	<i>Ethan Frome</i> (finish and essay)
4	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
5	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
6	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>

- 7 *The Great Gatsby* (finish and essay)
- 8 *Death of a Salesman*
- 9 *Death of a Salesman*
- 10 *Fahrenheit 451*
- 11 *Fahrenheit 451*; review for finals
- 12 Final exams and graduation

## English 11 Outline

In this class, students will primarily read, discuss, and write about literature written mostly by American authors; however, from time to time, we may cross the ocean to study a European work. Various forms of literature will include short stories, the novel, poetry, and drama. We will discuss plot, character, motivation, and how authors use symbolism, tone, figurative language, and imagery to convey meaning and create emotional responses in the reader.

In addition to literature, we will study vocabulary on a regular basis, examine ways to improve writing, and do practice exercises to help prepare for the SAT. Class participation is essential for doing well.

The major types of writing for this class include the analytical essay, which we will study in class before actually writing, and the research paper, procedures for which will be studied in depth.

### I. Vocabulary\*

- A. Diacritical Marks
- B. Lesson format
  - 1. Pronunciation and definitions
  - 2. Workbook exercises
    - a. Writing words correctly
    - b. Using words correctly
    - c. Choosing the best word
    - d. Using different forms of words
    - e. Reading comprehension

\*Each trimester approximately six vocabulary lessons are covered at various times.

### II. Kate Chopin

- A. Stories
  - 1. "The Dream of an Hour"
  - 2. "Desiree's Baby"
  - 3. "A Respectable Woman"
  - 4. "A Pair of Silk Stockings"
- B. The uses of irony
  - 1. Verbal irony
  - 2. Dramatic irony
  - 3. Situational irony

### III. *O Pioneers!*

- A. The American Dream
- B. Types of conflict
  - 1. External conflict

- a. Character vs. nature
- b. Character vs. character
- 2. Internal conflict
  - Character vs. self

C. Types of characters

- 1. Protagonist
- 2. Antagonist
- 3. Major character
- 4. Minor character
- 5. Round characterization
- 6. Flat characterization

D. Type of characterization

- 1. Direct
- 2. Indirect

IV. *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*

- A. Suspense
- B. The macabre
- C. First-person narrative technique

V. Great American Poetry

Poetic techniques and topics

- 1. Rhyme
- 2. Meter
- 3. Blank verse
- 4. Puritan plain style
- 5. Figures of speech
- 6. Ballad
- 7. Narrative poetry
- 8. Free verse
- 9. Modernism
- 10. Cultural perspectives

VI. *Oedipus Rex*

Elements of Greek tragedy

- 1. Protagonist
- 2. Antagonist
- 3. Dramatic irony
- 4. Fate

VII. *Hamlet*

Shakespearean techniques

- 1. Plot development
- 2. Characterization
- 3. Types of verse
- 4. Figures of speech
- 5. The reversal
- 6. The tragic hero
- 7. Dark humor
- 8. Conflict

- a. Internal
- b. External

VIII. *Spoon River Anthology*

Topics

- 1. Dramatic monologue
- 2. Figures of speech
- 3. Free verse
- 4. Natural vocal rhythm

IX. *The Crucible*

- A. History vs. drama
- B. Characterization
- C. Conflict

X. *Ethan Frome*

- A. Structure
  - The use of the "frame"
- B. Flashback
- C. Symbolism
- D. Love vs. duty
- E. The uses of irony

XI. *The Great Gatsby*

- A. The Roaring Twenties
- B. The American Dream
- C. Realism
- D. Symbolism

XII. *Death of a Salesman*

- A. The modern tragic hero
- B. The American Dream Revisited

XIII. *Fahrenheit 451*

- A. The genre of science fiction
- B. Seeing today in yesterday's visions of the future
- C. Censorship
- D. The uses of allusion