

Gatewood's Classroom

English 11 Syllabus

Course Philosophy

This, based upon an American literature curriculum, provides students with the requisite skills in literature and composition to succeed at the university level. Because of its college preparatory nature, the course should be considered *writing and reading intensive with a substantial and demanding workload*. The course will provide students with an *interdisciplinary approach* to literature; that is, the course will explore literature in its larger cultural context in order to see its relationship to history, to art, to psychology, to society. Specifically, the course will emphasize areas such as: vocabulary development, literary analysis, and rhetorical technique.

The first semester will focus on literary movements; the second semester will focus on literary analysis. By the end of the year, students should be able to analyze and synthesize information from various sources, as well as write in lean, tight, and fluid prose by engaging in several types of writing. In addition to building these academic tools, the course includes texts which should encourage students to develop introspection and awareness about self and societal issues. These college level texts include both classic and contemporary selections that at times deal with sophisticated and mature themes. The texts have been chosen to challenge students both academically and personally so that, by the end of the year, students hopefully will possess a better, fuller vision for themselves, a clearer, more focused assessment of their current situation and future goals. Grades for this course will be determined by the percentage of points earned divided by the total points possible.

Course Expectations

At the honors level, students should exhibit professional attitudes and behaviors, including outstanding management and organizational skills. Because of its collegiate and professional expectations, all long term assignments (such as essays and projects) are due by the announced deadlines. Whether students are absent or not, their work is due. *Late work on long term due dates will result in a loss of credit*. Any daily work (such as study guides and practice exams) which is late or not turned in when collected will receive an automatic deduction of 50%. If a student misses a class, any missed daily work must be turned in the next day the student is in class, and any missed exam must be made up within two days upon return to class. If a student fails to meet these requirements, the student will lose all credit for the daily work or exam.

If a student cannot make class on a particular day, he or she should contact the instructor to explain the absence and to make homework arrangements. Also, for students who miss class, daily assignments and notes will be posted on the class website. Honors students are responsible for their work, their choices, and their behavior without excuse. Students will maintain several fundamental responsibilities in this class. Students will be seated before the bell rings, will bring necessary materials and texts, will prepare themselves to participate, will treat individuals and materials with respect, and will not be disruptive. Any violation of these responsibilities will result in a *6:45 am conference* with me to discuss and resolve the situation. Parents/guardians and administration will be contacted in the event of poor academic and behavioral choices.

Weekly Framework

The course will strive to follow a weekly framework in order to ensure that various skills aligned with district standards and objectives receive balanced treatment. In general, students should expect each week to include vocabulary/grammar units, literature discussions/activities, and in class writings. At most times, students will have an in class reading, an out of class reading, and a writing assignment to manage simultaneously.

Course Materials

The *Elements of Literature* textbook will constitute the core readings of the course with outside novels assigned about every four weeks. Students also should be prepared for assigned writings about every two weeks. In addition, the course carries a fee to purchase instructional materials. Students should purchase a *folder* and must purchase a *college-ruled spiral notebook*.

Calendar and Texts

Unit	Time Frame	Featured Texts	Activities
The Act of Writing and The Construction of Self	August	<i>The Things They Carried</i>	Free Writes Personal Narrative Character Analysis Poetry Analysis
The Idea of America: Modeling a New World	September	Colonial Readings	Lesson Plan Intertextual Essay Argumentation In Class Essay
Defining the Dream: Visions of Early America	October November	1800s Readings	Short Story Service Project
The Dawn of the Dream: Waking up to Reality	November December	<i>Into the Wild</i> <i>Huck Finn</i>	Satire
Beyond the Hype: Studies in the Modern American Dream	January February	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> <i>Death of a Salesman</i> Modernist Readings	College Research Application Essay Triptych In Class Essay
Developing a Vision: What It Is To Make a Life	March April	<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	Synthesis Essay Analysis Essay
Rhetoric and Style: How to Argue and Analyze	April May	Essay Readings	Video Speech

Contact Information

If students have questions, comments, or concerns about the course, they should contact the instructor. At this academic level, the teacher and students should have an adult, professional, and working relationship. The website listed below will post daily assignments and notes. It also contains links for writing support, grammar issues, and test preparation.

phone 993.7650 email travisgatewood@smsd.org
twitter [@bayonetenglish](https://twitter.com/bayonetenglish) website www.bayonetenglish.com

Course Consent

Please sign and return this form to me to acknowledge that you and your parent/guardian have read, understand, and agree to the expectations, the texts, the objectives, and the responsibilities of this course.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature (Sign/Date)

Parent Signature (Sign/Date)

