



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



ENGLISH 11 (EZS304)

Teacher: Ms. Tran

Textbook: Holt Literature and Language Arts, Fifth Course; Holt Handbook

Supplemental Readings: *The Crucible*, *The Namesake*, *The Great Gatsby*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, essays, newspaper/magazine articles, poetry

Office hours: during lunch or after school

email: nhu-tran@scusd.edu

Course Objectives:

- ❖ To be critical reader, thinker and writer.
- ❖ To be reflective on his/her learning experience.

Semester 1: What does it mean to be American?

Reading—Students will examine the works (essays, poems, novels, plays) of various American writers and understand the values and beliefs established in the past that are the building blocks for this nation. Students will examine these values and decide if these values are still practiced today in American.

Writing—Students will focus on writing four formal essays: autobiographical incident, literary analysis, position paper, and argumentative essay. Students also will write informally in their composition book in response to freewrite prompts related to the readings. If time permits, there will also be occasions where students will have timed writing to practice for the SAT writing portion of the exam.

Grammar—We will analyze the mechanics and effective use of the English language: phrases, clauses, and punctuation marks.

Vocabulary—Students will be given grade-level vocabulary to strengthen their diction for reading, writing and speaking.

Speaking and Listening—Literature is understood through discussions. Students will have many Socratic Seminars on various topics discussed in class.

Semester 2: Is the American Dream alive today?

Reading—Students will examine the works (essays, poems, novels, plays) of various American writers who explore the concept of the American Dream in their writing. Students will determine the definition of the American Dream on a societal and personal level. They will explore what it takes to realize this dream. Ultimately, they will reach a conclusion on whether or not such a dream is attainable today.

Writing, grammar, vocabulary, speaking and listening—See Semester 1.

GRADES: (See Infinite Campus for grades.)

Assignments are graded on a point system. For example, a reading quiz might be worth 10 points, while an essay is worth 50-100 points.

100-90% = A (89.5% = A-)

89-80% = B (79.5% = B-)

79-70% = C (69.5% = C-)

69-60% = D (59.5% = D-)

59% and lower = F

CATEGORIES OF EVALUATION:

- ❖ Writing assignments: 30%
- ❖ Class work: 20%
- ❖ Assessment (tests/quizzes): 20%
- ❖ Final: 30%

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- ❖ Lined paper (filler paper)
- ❖ Dark blue or black pens
- ❖ Composition notebook

POLICY OF COURSE WORK:

- ❖ Try your best to turn your work in ON TIME. I will give you plenty of time to complete the assignments. Late assignments will be accepted up to 3 days after the due date, but there will be point deduction. **If there is an unexpected family emergency, speak to me and we can work something out.**
- ❖ If you have an **excused absence** the day an assignment is due or a test/quiz is given, you must submit the assignment or take the test/quiz the day you return. If you are absent the day an assignment is given, it is due the following day unless it is designed to be completed over several days. Contact me via email for work, if you anticipate on being absent.
- ❖ Sharing your ideas in class discussions can earn you extra credit points if you make thoughtful comments and/or ask thoughtful questions about the topics we discuss in class. These extra points will help with your grade.

CLASS RULES:

- ❖ Be respectful of teacher, other students and property.
- ❖ No electronic devices may out during class time.
- ❖ No eating or drinking (unless it's water) in class.

TEACHER'S EXPECTATIONS:

- ❖ Come to class prepared having completed a reading or writing assignment.
- ❖ Work hard and put forth your best effort. Sincere hard work will pay off in the end.
- ❖ Demonstrate analytical, reflective, and original thinking in class discussion and writing. Don't be intimidated or afraid to share your ideas in class discussions.
- ❖ Don't be afraid to make mistakes. We, including me, learn from our mistakes. Learn from them and make a change for the better.
- ❖ Persevere. I will work with you to earn the grade you have honestly worked hard to earn.



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STUDENT:

I agree to abide by the expectations and procedures listed in the English 11 Syllabus.

 Student's name (Print clearly.)

 Period

 Student's signature

 Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

I have read the English 11 Syllabus and will support the teacher in its implementation.

 Parent/Guardian's name (Print clearly.)

 Date

 Parent/Guardian's signature

_____ @ _____
 email address