



## SLCA SYLLABUS 2018-2019

### ENGLISH III HONORS

#### **Mission Statement**

SouthLake Christian Academy exists for the sake of God's glory and mission; proclaiming the gospel and discipling the whole person in all aspects of God's reality.

#### **Course Description**

English III Honors is designed as a novel-based course with an emphasis on American literature and the philosophies and theologies that informed those works. The honors course expands the study of literature to include historical and genre specific knowledge in preparation for AP Literature in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. English III Honors surveys American Literature chronologically from the Colonial Period to the Contemporary Age. Students will develop mastery in reading fiction, poetry, drama, autobiography, philosophical and theological essays, critical theory and analytic essays, and in writing analytical responses to works of literature.

**NOTE:** The expectation of an English Honors student is that he/she be motivated to read and be confident in comprehension *outside of class*. Class discussions will focus far less on WHAT happened, and more on WHY the events matter, how the events relate to historical context, philosophical/theological thought, and biographical knowledge of the author, and how to critically assess the importance of events. As such, the honors student cannot only expect to read a substantial amount more outside of class, but also to be assessed far more based on their writing and analytical skills than a non-honors student. English Honors students are also required to complete an additional Independent Reading Assignment each semester.

#### **Course Objectives**

English III Honors is a course that has five main objectives: (1) to expand the student's view of American literature with a Biblical worldview, (2) to improve and cultivate students' understanding and comprehension (as readers and writers) of a variety of styles and genres of literature, (3) to establish a clear method and expectation for analytic writing, (4) to increase vocabulary and grammar skills to aid in meeting the first three objectives, and (5) to introduce concepts and skills necessary for success in AP Literature. Students will be challenged to think critically and to communicate effectively.

#### **Required Texts:** (Provided by school unless noted)

John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men* (Summer Reading – Must Purchase)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

Selected Works of Prose and Poetry from each time period

#### **Evaluation:**

The course will be evaluated as follows:

- ❖ **Homework & Classwork** will count as 10% of the grade. Assessment will include various homework and classwork assignments.
- ❖ **Quizzes** will make up 30% of the grade. These may or may not be announced.
- ❖ The average of all **Tests** will make up 60% of the grade. Tests will typically cover an entire novel or reading unit. **Independent reading assignments and literature-based projects and**

**essays** will count as test grades due to the amount of work involved. **Reader Response Journals** will be graded for completion after 20-25 entries and will count as a **test grade**. Each entry must be one handwritten page in length, must include the date and topic at the top of the entry, and must be completed by the beginning of class on its individual due date. No late entries will be accepted.

- ❖ **No extra credit** will be offered per school policy.

Semester Grade will be calculated as follows:

- ❖ 80% will be based on the semester grade as explained above.
- ❖ 20% will be based on the midterm/final exam score.

**Test Make-up Policy:** If a student comes into school late and as a result has missed a test, the student will immediately report to the office to make up that test.

Students have **ONE** day for each day absent (excused) to make up all tests and quizzes. If the test/quiz is not made up in this period, **10 pts will be deducted** from the final test/quiz grade **for each day past the makeup day**. Students should meet with their teacher(s) ASAP to request alternate arrangements if they do not have a study hall or have multiple assessments to complete.

All tests/quizzes are made up during the assigned test makeup period or other study hall. Students may NOT miss a scheduled class to make up a test.

**Absence Policy:** Any time that a student misses class, he/she is expected to be up to date on reading upon returning to school. Therefore, if a reading quiz is given on the day a student returns after an absence, he/she is responsible for taking the quiz. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of which pages/chapters are due each day.

**Classroom Expectations:**

- ❖ **Follow all rules and procedures** listed in the SouthLake handbook and the English Department Academic Integrity Policy.
- ❖ **Respect** every person in the classroom so that we may enjoy a supportive atmosphere for open class discussion. Rudeness and insensitivity will not be tolerated.
- ❖ **Use your own capable brain** instead of *Cliffs® Notes*, Spark Notes, on-line summaries, or any other material of this type.
- ❖ **Participate** daily in class discussion. You and I will both be bored if I have to do all the talking. You will get out of this class only what you put into it.
- ❖ **Be prepared for class** with homework assignments and required supplies. Failure to bring required materials to class will result in a TARDY to retrieve materials from locker.

**Required Supplies:**

- ❖ Pencil and blue or black pens
- ❖ Loose leaf notebook paper
- ❖ 3X5 notecards
- ❖ Text/novel
- ❖ YOUR BRAIN AND ENTHUSIASM
- ❖ NOTE: It is recommended that you purchase as many of your texts as possible. Owning your texts not only allows you to access them for later courses of study, including AP Literature, but also allows you to write in the texts in preparation for discussions and tests.