



Teacher: Natalie Wessler-Commander, M.A.
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Room: 145
Planning Period: 1st Hour

English III Class Syllabus 2019-2020

About Ms. Commander: Hello, my Name is Natalie Commander and I will be your English III teacher this school year. This is my first year at Westmoore and I am very excited to be here!

I have my bachelor's degree in English Education and my master's degree in 20th and 21st Century Literature, both from the University of Central Oklahoma. In addition to teaching English II and III at Westmoore, I also teach online composition courses at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City. I enjoy teaching at both the secondary and post-secondary level. I'm grateful to be able to do both!

I am married and have two daughters. My oldest is an 8th grader in Moore Public Schools. We also have two crazy dogs! When I'm not at school, I enjoy being with my family, reading, refurbishing old furniture, taking pictures, watching *Friends*, and sneaking in power naps!

Course Description and Objectives: English III is a year-long course which builds upon the language arts skills emphasized in English I and II. Students will evaluate, interpret, and respond to a variety of texts in American literature, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and media. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences, using the writing process to develop effective, coherent work (including multi-paragraph and documented essays, one of which must be a research essay) wherein the student demonstrates command of the conventions of Standard English. In order to succeed with the ACT examination, students will learn and practice test taking strategies pertaining to reading comprehension and Standard English usage. Finally, students will continue

developing their skills in speaking, listening, and visual literacy.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Fall Semester

Bell Work

Grammar and Literary Terms Review

The Great Gatsby Unit

A Raisin in the Sun Unit

Short Story Unit

Independent Reading (DEAR) and Written Summaries

Spring Semester

Bell Work

Research Essay

The Glass Castle Unit

The Hunger Games Unit

Test Prep

Poetry Unit

Independent Reading (DEAR) and Written Summaries

****Ms. Commander can adjust the course schedule as needed.****

Grading Overview:

- 60% Daily Assignments and Homework
30% Tests and Quizzes
- 10% Semester Test

****When a guest speaker/substitute is teaching the class, all work will be worth double points.****

Late Work Policy: Late work will be deducted 10% for each day it's late-up to TWO days. After the two day period has passed, assignments turned in late will be given half credit. For example, if you made an 84 on an assignment and turned it in three days late, it will be recorded as a 42. Tests and quizzes cannot be taken or turned in late unless absent. See below.

Make-up Work Policy: Per district policy, students have equal amount of days to make up an assignment as days missed. For example, if a student is absent on Monday and Tuesday, the student has until Thursday to make up the assignment.

It is up to YOU to arrange any quizzes or tests missed in your absence. Quizzes and tests CANNOT be made up after your allowed days have passed.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Don't do it! Any type of academic dishonesty WILL NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty can happen in a multitude of ways.

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you represent someone else's ideas or written work as your own. Anytime you use someone else's artwork, arguments, research, data, etc., it must be cited! Also, cheating/using another student's work (past or present) or having any other person complete your work will be considered academic dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty will be recorded, kept, and given a zero (F). Repeat academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action outside of the classroom. Please see rule breaking consequences.

Classroom Rules:

Students, parents and teachers need to work together to ensure everyone in our classroom has a fun and rewarding school year. I WILL NOT tolerate any student who tries to prevent me from teaching or another student from learning.

To allow each student the best learning environment possible, the following rules have been implicated:

- Be on-time, prepared, respectful, and productive.
- Always have your school I.D. visible and around your neck.
- Stay in your assigned seat unless given permission to sit elsewhere. Assigned seats will be moved as needed.
- **No talking/interrupting when Ms. Commander is giving a lesson/instruction.**
- Follow directions and bring all required materials to class.
- Raise your hand when you would like to speak during instruction.
- Please wait until all directions are given before raising your hand. Be patient and wait to be called on.
- Work silently on other (approved) activities while other students are finishing daily work. Everyone deserves the same peaceful environment to complete their assignments.
- Students should not be talking, sleeping/have their heads down, writing personal notes, playing (cards, toys, instruments) reading books or magazines, on cell phones, wearing earphones or hats, etc. unless given permission to do so.
- No personal grooming or other distractions (spraying hairspray/cologne/perfume, brushing your (or someone else's) hair, putting on makeup, putting on deodorant, painting nails, etc.)

- No comments that are sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, or disrespects any other person's belief systems, SES status, dress, etc. NO BULLYING (verbal, gesturing, cyber, or otherwise) will be tolerated. If anyone feels threatened/unsafe inside of our classroom, please let Ms. Commander know. Students should feel safe in Room 145.
- **All rules are in addition to district and school rules found in the student handbook. **
- **Ms. Commander may add to these rules if unforeseen problems arise. **

Consequences for Breaking a Rule:

- First warning will be verbal.
- Second Warning will result in a teacher/student conference in the hallway, the end/after class, or whenever Ms. Commander feels fit.
- Third warning will result in a phone call/email home to parents/guardians.
- Fourth warning will be a referral to the appropriate principal.
- A student who is severely disruptive or disrespectful will immediately be sent to the office.

Cell Phone/Electronics Policy:

- Cell phones and other electronics use are only acceptable when permission is granted by Ms. Commander.
- Cell phones and electronics should NOT be sitting out on your desk or in your lap. Put them out of your sight and mine.
- Opportunities will be given to use your cell phones/electronics when ALL your work is finished. These opportunities are dependent on how well the above rules are being followed on a regular basis.

Consequences for Breaking Cell Phone Rules:

- First warning will be verbal.
- Second warning will consist of giving the student a choice to put their phone away or place it in cell phone jail (a designated box with lid by Ms. Commander's desk) to resist having it out again.
- Third warning will result in the cell phone being put in the cell phone jail without choice until the end of class. Any resistance in doing so will result in a trip to the office.
- A parent/guardian will be called/emailed the second time a student's phone is sent to cell phone jail.

- The student will be referred to the appropriate principal/office after the third time the student's phone is sent to cell phone jail.

Classroom Procedures:

- Students are expected to begin bell work independently as soon as they enter the classroom. Students will be given 6 minutes after the bell rings to complete bell work. When finished, sit quietly until all students are done and class begins.
- Sit quietly and respectfully while Ms. Commander is giving the day's lesson and instructions. Take notes as needed. Raise your hand to share (relative) thoughts/ask questions.
- Complete assignments independently, unless told otherwise.
- Hall passes with agenda will only be given AS NEEDED after bell work and lesson are completed. Please do not raise hand and ask while Ms. Commander is talking.
- Do not be disruptive while other students are trying to finish their work.
- Cell phones/electronics use may be used quietly with permission when assignments are completed.
- Assignments done in class will be due at the end of class, unless otherwise stated by Ms. Commander.
- Ms. Commander dismisses you, not the bell. No lining up at the door or standing around.

Tests:

- Test dates will be posted in advance, so all students present will take the test.
- No student conversation or teacher assistance is allowed during tests.
- Students caught talking (one warning will be given), having their phones/electronics out, or cheating in any way will have their test taken and marked as zero.

Supplies:

- Three ring (1-1.5 inch) binder
- Loose leaf paper
- Binder dividers (notes/bellwork/handouts/graded work/etc.)

- Pencil or pen (blue, black or a DARK color)
- Agenda: agendas should be used to help students stay organized and on task. They will also be used as hall passes. Use them wisely.

Random binder checks will be performed to make sure students have everything they need to succeed on future assignments and tests. As a rule, keep everything Ms. Commander gives you, graded or otherwise.

When students are issued a textbook or novel, they are responsible for the cost should it be lost, stolen, or damaged.

Student binders can be kept in classroom at student's own risk. Ms. Commander is not responsible for them.

Please have supplies ready to go every day in class. Hall passes WILL NOT be given to go to locker/car/wherever to get them.

OPTIONAL School Supplies for ALL students to use throughout the school year. Please donate if you're able:

- Kleenex
- Ream of Copy Paper
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray

HONOR CODE

When a student signs their name to any kind of assignment, they are acknowledging that the assignment is theirs alone. A student may never copy anyone else's work or copy answers from the internet. Students may not share homework or completed assignments through social media, tablets, cell phones, etc. Furthermore, when a student discusses an assignment in class, gives an oral presentation, or writes an essay, they are stating they have read the work(s) they are discussing and/or have written about. Any form of academic dishonesty/plagiarism will be recorded, kept, and given a zero (F). Repeat academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action outside of the classroom.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the honor code and all other rules and expectations set out in our class syllabus.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____ Hour _____

Students must sign and return. This form is for a **GRADE**. Thank you.